

Hafa Adai!

To prevent erosion, mitigation in Laolao Beach proposed. **PAGE 2**

CCC executive director asks OAG to look into accountability on false attribution. **PAGE 3**

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AS CENTRAL GOVT ASKS FOR ANOTHER CUT IN PSS' BUDGET

'We will not hesitate to close down schools'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite nearly all government departments lifting austerity measures late last year, the Public School System remains in austerity and looks as though it will remain in austerity indefinitely due to cuts the government is asking them to make, again.

During the 16th CNMI State Board of Education Standing Committee meeting on Fiscal, Personnel and Administration yesterday, Marylou Ada, who chairs the BOE's FPA committee, said that PSS has been asked by the central govern-

ment to reduce their budget, again, on top of the reduction they were asked to make back in July 2019.

PSS would ultimately have to revert back to the compensation plan of 2016, nullify-

See SCHOOLS on Page 4

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Education Commission Alfred Ada, second from right, and members of BOE Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration committee met yesterday to discuss the budget reduction request from the central government.

Education chief backs return to 2016 compensation plan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada is backing the option to revert to the 2016 compensation plan as a means to save some cash that would ultimately void the salary increase CNMI educators received back in 2017.

In an interview with Ada, following the request by the central government to

reduce PSS' budget significantly, he said there's a silver lining that comes with reverting back to the PSS 2016 compensation plan

"We will be able to continue operations. It gives us the opportunity to be updated with our health and life insurance, our utilities, and other operational costs," he said.

Ada said he doesn't know
See CHIEF on Page 4

THE BIG QUESTION:

What happened to the CBF?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With both the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Lottery Commission washing their hands off on the community benefit fund issue, all eyes are now on Gov. Ralph DLG

Torres to answer one big question—what happened to the CBF money?

The fund is the subject of controversy after House of Representatives Gaming Committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) asked both
See CBF on Page 4

San Vicente Park vandalized

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In late December, photos of a vandalized latte house in the still-under-construction San Vicente Central Park surfaced on social media disheartening not just members of the community, but community development officers who worked hard for years on the project.

"San Vicente Park has al-

See PARK on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo of the vandalized latte house in San Vicente Park circulated on social media late December, bringing to the forefront the need for stricter vandalism laws in the CNMI.



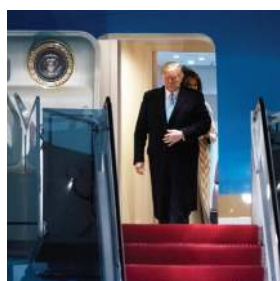
INSIDE



BUSINESS

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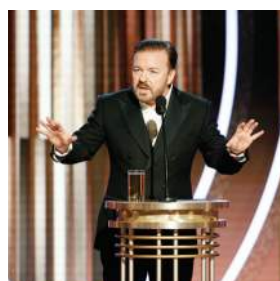
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FOCUS

President Donald Trump's confrontation with Iran is posing a gut check for Congress, brazenly testing whether the House and Senate will exert their own authority over U.S. military strategy or cede more war powers to the White House.

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LIFE & STYLE

Ricky Gervais kicked off the Golden Globes by telling the audience his fifth time hosting would be his last, then proceeded to deliver an expletive-laced skewering of Hollywood's elites.

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Local

To prevent erosion, mitigation in Laolao Beach proposed

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The mitigation of the Laolao Beach is one of the priority projects for the year of Precinct 5 Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

"One of the projects that I'm proposing to be funded under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds is for the mitigation of the Laolao Bay Beach, the Laolao Bay Drive," Deleon Guerrero said.

Super Typhoon Yutu slammed the area causing massive erosion on the roads, and the representative is hoping that the Department of Public Works would regard its mitigation as a priority under the CDBG disaster recovery funds.

Laolao Bay Drive serves as the only roadway to residents in the area, for tourists, especially divers who utilize that road for their leisure time diving, or for those sightseeing on the beach, and for locals who go to Laolao Bay Beach to have picnics.

Laolao is also a sensitive area because it involves the is-

land's watershed systems, and is home to marine resources.

"That's where the water comes from, the mountains, and if we don't place any measures to prevent from erosion, it basically pollutes the beach. So, it's very important that we do something about it," Deleon Guerrero said.

"The Laolao Bay Area, the beach area is a very sensitive

area, environmentally sensitive and we need to be very cautious and know how to prevent any future erosion coming [from] either natural disaster or even human activities," he added.

Every year, to mitigate coastal erosion, the U.S. federal government spends an average of \$150 million on beach nourishment and

shoreline erosion control measures.

The House vice speaker also applauded Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for placing trash disposal bins on beach sites where people can segregate, and for securing grants to build runoff beach ways in the watersheds.

"Every waterway that goes from the mountains towards

the beach, at times, you cannot pass because it's all eroded. So, what they did is they placed concrete caps along the road so that the water can flow continuously without any activities from mixing debris and trash," the representative said.

To maintain the quality of

the beach, Deleon Guerrero encourages everybody utilizing public beaches to "be mindful of not trashing the area. Pick up the trash, bring it home, properly dispose them following rules and regulations and laws because we do have litter control enforcement laws."



L. MAURIN

To protect the pristine waters of the Laolao Beach, Precinct 5 Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) is proposing for the erosion mitigation in Laolao Drive to prevent runoffs into the beach.

Energy-Efficient/Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program relaunched

The CNMI Division of Energy announced the relaunch of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Energy Program: "Energy-Efficient/Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program" (CNMI-SEP-EE/ESARP) to provide financial assistance, as an incentive, to residential consumers of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The program is for residents who are interested in implementing energy measures within their homes by purchasing new Energy-Efficient and or Energy Star rated appliances to replace old inefficient ones. This would improve the efficiency of residential homes by lowering energy use and reducing the cost of utilities in residential homes. Rebate vouchers will be available on a first-come, first-served basis or until funds run out.

Applications for appliance rebate vouchers for the replacement of old and used inefficient appliances will become available on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, for distribution to residents of Saipan at the CNMI Energy Division Office, located at House No. 1337,

See **ENERGY** on Next Page

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Date	Location	Time
January 24, 2020	Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus Building J-15 Saipan	9 am – 1 pm 1 pm – 2 pm: One-on-One question session Coffee, pastries and lunch included
January 24, 2020	Northern Marianas College Rota Center Room A-1 Live Streaming Video to Saipan	9 am – 1 pm Coffee, pastries and lunch included
January 24, 2020	Northern Marianas College Tinian Center Room C Live Streaming Video to Saipan	9 am – 1 pm Coffee, pastries and lunch included

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This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action against Syngenta Seeds, LLC, taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for alleged violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Worker Protection Standard.

Manila finally gets a lawyer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reynaldo A. Manila, who has been an inmate in the Department of Corrections for 18 years and is now blind on his left eye, finally has a lawyer in his lawsuit against former and current DOC officials.

William M. Fitzgerald, counsel for Manila, filed yesterday a motion for a status conference in the case before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In his declaration, Fitzgerald said it was only last Dec. 3 when he received from the District Court voluminous files in Manila's lawsuit consisting of more than

400 pages.

Fitzgerald said he met Manila the following day, Dec. 4, and that Manila requested that he represents him because his previous attorney had withdrawn from representing him.

Fitzgerald said he had already talked with a doctor about Manila's case.

He said Manila sent him a message, asking him to pick up his files.

The lawyer said since he met with Manila, he (Fitzgerald) had faced two brief writing deadlines and previously scheduled deposition that have prevented him from reading

and digesting the voluminous Manila files.

Fitzgerald said he needs more time to prepare to provide Manila with adequate representation.



Fitzgerald

Manila is suing former DOC commissioner Robert Guerrero and two other officials over the blindness of his left eye.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied a motion to dismiss Manila's lawsuit.

Guerrero, who is currently the Department of Public Safety commissioner, was the DOC commissioner when

Manila was diagnosed with retinal detachment in the left eye.

Manila sued Guerrero and DOC officials Georgia Cabrera and Jose K. Pangelinan in their personal capacity for alleged violations prisoner's Eighth Amendment right to adequate medical care.

Cabrera used to serve as DOC commissioner, while Pangelinan served as acting DOC commissioner when Guerrero was transferred to the DPS. Cabrera and Pangelinan are still DOC officials.

In Guerrero's defense to

Manila's lawsuit, the Office of the Attorney General has asserted that Manila's injuries, if any, were caused by the malpractice of his treating professionals.

OAG Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, said Guerrero did not violate any of Manila's rights pursuant to well established law.

Timmons said Guerrero has qualified immunity from suit.

Manila was 39 years old when the Superior Court sentenced him in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second degree murder over the death of

his 6-month-old goddaughter in November 2000.

The then-chief prosecutor Clyde Lemons said the doctor testified that the baby was shaken "very hard" consistent with shaken baby syndrome.

Until now, Manila is insisting he did not kill the baby.

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New VHIC for eligible veterans

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs announced that the U.S. Department of Defense will be now offering a new Veterans Health Identification Card for eligible veterans that will allow access to the Military Commissary, Exchange, and Recreation facilities starting last Jan. 1.

According to CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, both he and the CNMI's Veteran's Health representative Ruth Coleman met with the Hawaii officials in early December 2019 regarding the new Veterans Health Identification Card for eligible veterans.

"Veterans who have the old VHIC must renew their card because there are new credentials that will allow employees who work in the Military Commissary, Exchange, and Recreation facilities identify if a veteran has access," said Iakopo.

The VHIC must display the veteran's eligibility status which is Purple Heart, Former Prisoner of War, and/or Ser-

vice Connected.

Veterans who have been honorably discharged but were not able to have a 100% health rating and does not have a military ID can now avail to apply with Iakopo at the Office of Veterans Affairs or Coleman at the Marianas Heights II, second floor to see if they are eligible for the new Veterans Health Identification Card and/or Military ID.

If you are a veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart, a veteran who was a former prisoner of war, or an individual approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran under the Department of Veterans Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, you will be eligible for privileges provided under the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Act of 2018.

If you are a reserve member who was awarded the Purple Heart, a veteran who was a former prisoner of war, or veteran with a Department of Veterans Affairs-documented

service-connected disability will be eligible for privileges provided under the Department of Veterans Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, you will be eligible for privileges provided under the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Act of 2018.

A service connected-disability is an injury or illness that was incurred during active military service, as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



Iakopo

Guam's Veterans Affairs representative, Kalani Echang, will now be coming every month instead of every 3-4 months to help with eligible veterans compensations and benefits.

Scheduling appointments with Iakopo and/or Coleman to see Echang is a must since Echang will only be available once a month from 9am to 4:30pm.

For more information to see if you are an eligible veteran contact (670) 664-2650/51 (Office of Veterans Affairs) or (670)322-0035 (Veterans Health Rep).

ENERGY

From Page 2

Ascencion Dr., Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Office hours are from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, except holidays and weekends.

For residents of Tinian and Rota, applications will be made available at designated Offices of the Mayors of both Municipalities on the dates and times listed below. Visiting Energy Staff will be available on-site to assist residents of respective municipalities, as well.

Location:	Date:	Time:	Location:
Tinian	Jan. 25, 2020 (Saturday)	9am-4:30pm	Mayor's Office
Rota	Feb. 1, 2020 (Saturday)	9am-3pm	Mayor's Office

Please note, the dates and times for Tinian and Rota listed above may be subject to change if deemed necessary or if vouchers are no longer available.

Individuals with Disabilities or families and relatives of Individuals with Disabilities requiring additional assistance or reasonable accommodations are requested to contact the Division of Energy office at (670) 664 - 4480 at least one day prior to the dates and times listed above.

For more information, contact the Division of Energy at 670-664-4480.

Funding opportunity for this program is made possible through a grant award from the U.S. Department of Energy-State Energy Program. (PR)

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² All loans and lines of credit are subject to credit approval. For lines of credit, there is no discount on introductory fixed rates or fixed rate locks unless otherwise indicated in a specific promotion. Home equity lines of credit are not available in CNMI. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

³ Banking services and special benefits depend on the Priority Level you apply for and maintain. These benefits may be lost if account is closed or converted to another type of account. Please see a Priority Banking Plan Checking Account Agreement for specific terms and conditions. The offer cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers, or promotions.

CCC executive director asks OAG to look into accountability on false attribution

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero recently expressed disappointment with a social media news group based in Guam that allegedly released Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's so-called master vendors list and falsely attributed

Small craft advisory in effect until Thursday

The National Weather Service based in Tiyan, Guam reports that a small craft advisory is in effect and will be in effect until Thursday morning.

According to NWS, wind speeds up to 25 knots are expected to produce hazardous conditions for operating small crafts.

Due to the warning, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is advising the general public, especially inexperienced mariners and those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing until Thursday.

East winds were reportedly at 15 to 25 knot with frequent gusts to 30 knots. Seas were seen at 6 to 9 feet and could occasionally reach 10 feet.

Due to the wind and high seas, small crafts can be blown off course or capsized. **(Kimberly Bautista)**

CCC as the source.

In an interview after he brought up the release of master vendors list during a recent CCC board meeting, Deleon Guerrero said every month IPI is required to submit the master vendors list to CCC as part of the regulatory requirements.

Deleon Guerrero said he was informed that there is a social media news group in Guam that published some of the older master vendors list and attributed it as being provided by CCC.

"That is absolutely false," said the executive director, without identifying the social media news group.

Deleon Guerrero said he is go-

ing to check with deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio as to what CCC can do.

He said Attorney General Edward Manibusan should look into this.

"If you want to publish something that I don't know how they got a hold, but you attributed it to the commission releasing it to them, is absolutely false," the executive director said.

Deleon Guerrero said there has to be accountability.

"If you want to publish something that is actually confidential that's their prerogative but if you're [going to] attribute it as the commission having released it to them or provided by CCC, that's wrong. It's fabrication,"

Respite Service Program open house today

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Respite Service Program will be having their open house today, Jan. 8, from 10am to 3pm at CRSP office, building #1354 on Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill.

The open house will be introducing the CRSP that will focus on catering to primary caregivers and the community. The resource center is meant to be a comfortable space for caregivers who register with the program.

The center will be providing registered CRSP caregivers access to the internet, books with various genres,

relaxing activities, and classes. The center will also provide caregivers a short-term relief from caregiving for self-care or to take a much needed rest with peace of mind, while a professional takes their place to cater to their loved one.

Respite service programs have been proven to reduce abuse, especially elder abuse, and improve the overall care of children with disabilities and senior citizens who are being cared for full-time at home. Respite care services also improve the caretaker's health. **(Justine Nauta)**

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

ing the salary increase implemented in 2017.

However, Ada said, in her capacity as chairwoman, she is not willing to make the requested cut unless the government provides data to warrant another reduction to their requested budget.

"We were told to reduce, again, our budget and I don't think, as FPA chair, we are willing to do that unless I see the data from the central government as to why and why other agencies are not being asked, we have not lift our austerity, we're still under austerity measure," she said.

Ada said they will continue to fight the reduction as much as they can, and if worse comes to worse; she will not hesitate to close the schools.

"I will not hesitate to close schools and I'm going to get the parents behind us. We cannot tolerate this anymore. Last year they asked us to reduce and when we reduced they came back, saying we didn't reduce enough, so we reduced again. We went down to 50%," she said.

Ada explained that she fears if the request for another reduction in their budget request is implemented, PSS will not be able to retain their educators and the quality of education in the CNMI will diminish.

"[Teachers] will leave and what's going to happen to the quality of education in the Commonwealth? It's going to diminish and we were doing so well, we are on the right path," she said.

Ada said historically, FY 2020 allocation was already an all-time low for PSS. Ada added that shouldn't

be the case because education is the Commonwealth's future.

"This has been the lowest allocation from the government. If anyone wants to stand up and say they care for education, now is the time to act because we cannot stand this misinformation, this misrepresentation by the government saying that everything is OK when you're asking PSS to be the sacrificial lamb for the entire Commonwealth whereas education is the future of the Commonwealth," she said.

PSS was allocated \$37.7 million for FY 2020 after the government requested more than a \$13-million cut in their original \$50.8-million budget request last July. Ninety percent of PSS' funding goes to personnel salary.

The FPA committee will reconvene today to continue to discuss the budget reduction.

since 2016," Bautista added.

"The vandalism incident is unfortunate, and we want to continue to advise the public that we don't condone vandalism in any form," the press secretary stressed.

Incidentally, the Senate just passed House Bill 21-2, or the Anti-Vandalism Bill, authored by Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) which makes it unlawful to vandalize, that is, any action that would involve the destruction, damage, and/or defacing of any public or private property.

Vandalism is a perennial problem on the island. Guerrero had called for a stricter law versus vandalism following the desecration of the Katori Jingu Shrine in 2016. His bill, once signed into law, establishes a separate statute and penalty for vandalism to

allow for it to be treated as a crime separate from criminal mischief.

With the park being a "critical component of that environment of community and village quality of life," Bautista said the plans to secure it would include additional community policing, DPS personnel, as well as potential security through partnership with the private sector.

This is to ensure that San Vicente Central Park "stays safe, stays accessible, and stays comfortable for the people who call San Vicente home and people who call the south home."

"We want to be able to encourage folks within the San Vicente area and people in the south and Dandan, particularly as well, to come together and to really look out for potential vandalism in the future," Bautista added.

Deleon Guerrero said.

He said it's really upsetting when the publication says that a senior member of the commission who requested anonymity provided the information.

"There are no senior members requesting anonymity. They just making this up," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that he had a meeting with all of his officials, who denied releasing the list.

CHIEF

From Page 1

how else to pull off the reduction as well as keep PSS operations afloat aside from reverting back to the compensation plan.

"It's with a heavy heart that we have come to a difficult but necessary conclusion. This is an extremely tough decision, but considering other alternatives and the choices that we're making, to me it's sacrificial and the only option at this time that I can think of to have the least impact on our employees overall," he said.

CBF

From Page 1

commissions to report to the committee on the status of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's compliance with the casino license agreement.

CBF is a contractual obligation of the IPI, spelled out in the casino license agreement, as part of its contract with the CNMI government and the public.

Based on the audited financial statements for 2017 and 2018, IPI owed \$17 million in distributions from the CBF. With the required \$20 million payment every year, beginning Oct. 1, 2019, IPI should owe about \$37 million in CBF distributions.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said that IPI's obligation to pay out these funds is non-negotiable, as it is in their contract.

"They have missed these deadlines. That much we know, and as far as we have been able to tell from communications, from media report, there have been no consequences at all for this failure to honor a promise," Sablan lamented.

CBF for recovery

In a separate interview, press secretary Kevin Bautista explained that CBF is an escrow account managed by IPI, and that it is up to IPI to choose which community projects to fund, but from the standpoint of an endorsement by the governor.

"The one thing about the community benefit fund is that that money does not belong to the Commonwealth government. It belongs to the casino license holder, IPI," Bautista said.

"IPI then chooses to put the money out to fund projects that benefit the community. The governor endorses the project, the casino license holder then looks at it, and if they want to fund that particular project, they can," he added.

The press secretary went on to share that one particular project of high importance that was able to get done through the community benefit fund by IPI was the amount of about

"I will be discussing that with the deputy AG. Because there has to be accountability. It's unlawful to release that," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he knows that the Legislature is pushing CCC to release the master vendors list.

"Perhaps maybe in the future we could, but there will be no reference to the dollar value," he said.

Ada said that he is aware of the repercussions if the 2016 compensation plan is implemented, including a huge loss of staff and protests to the central government.

"They can do what they want to do but I am not going to lead that way because they can pound on [the government's] door but if they don't have the money, what are you going to do," he said.

Ada will meet with the Fiscal, Personnel and Administration committee today to reconvene on the topic of whether the 2016 compensation plan will be implemented or if other austerity measures can be discussed.

\$400,000 to the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts.

"They are a nonprofit long-term recovery group that was formed by government and private sector partners before super typhoon Yutu, and that \$400,000 was used to rebuild homes of folks that were still on the unmet needs table of CARE and the American Red Cross," Bautista said.

"We were able to use that \$400,000 to fund the construction and the rebuild of about 46 homes that were still left at the unmet needs table. Those are families and individuals that were still suffering after Typhoon Soudelor back in 2015," he added.

No control over the money

CBF is a supplemental resource to fund community projects. According to Bautista, it is not a source of revenue to the CNMI government's general fund for ordinary government expenses such as wages and salaries.

Bautista reiterates that the Office of the Governor has no control over the CBF, but the office provides input on community projects that IPI chooses to fund.

"The most important thing for the Commonwealth is for them to finish that project, and then ensure the payment of the CBF, but we continue to be in close dialogue with IPI on ensuring that the CBF requirement under the license agreement remains fulfilled."

What's next?

According to the Casino License Agreement, the CBF is supposed to be held with IPI until the point of distribution, with IPI to consult with the governor about how the funds could be distributed.

The House minority bloc is seeking answers as to why the IPI is not being required to honor its contractual obligation, for about \$37 million owed by the IPI that could have been used to benefit health care, public education, retirement benefits, and infrastructure.

"If we only enforce the laws that we already have, and collect the taxes and the fees that already should be collected, we'd be in much better shape," Sablan said.

PARK

From Page 1

ways been something that really brought the communities of San Vicente and the people in the south together," press secretary Kevin Bautista said.

It was designed to be a place that is safe, accessible, educational, recreational, and that provides learning opportunities for the villages' children, adults, and *man'amkos*.

"The whole vandalism incident that happened a few weeks ago, it really hurt a lot of the folks who were directly involved in the project, particularly our DPW (Department of Public Works) project managers, our architects, our grants management folks who've worked really hard

Child abuse case defendant entitled to preliminary hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio has denied the government's motion to vacate the preliminary hearing in a child abuse case in which a defendant was already released on bail.

New board of trustees renames NMTI

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute board of trustees met for the first time last Monday with their first official order of business being the renaming of the trades institution to a technical institution.

According to NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, the board of trustees officially adopted the resolution that changes the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

"The resolutions adopted today was to call the formally Northern Marianas Trades Institute, [Northern Marianas] Technical Institute, now it's official," she said.

Another resolution adopted yesterday was the resolution to establish a new bank account under the board of trustees.

"The other resolution was to establish a new account so that when we receive the grants, it would go to the new board

Preliminary hearing is like a mini-trial. Under such hearing, the prosecutor must show that enough evidence exists to charge a defendant.

In an order issued Monday, Kim-Tenorio said as the conditions of defendant Theodore O. Pehnos Jr.'s pretrial release is a substantial deprivation

of trustees accounts. It was a unanimous vote," she said.

In a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, the NMTI board of directors agreed unanimously last Friday to move forward with the motion to dissolve the board of directors to make room for the board of trustees pursuant to the law that recognized NMTI as a government institution.

Two members of the outgoing board will transition into the board of trustees, Richard P. Kautz Jr. and Mario Valentino. The outgoing board members who will not make the transition into the board of trustees are John Gonzales, Annie G. Hayes, and Joseph Torres.

Also part of the new board of trustees are Irene Holl, Carmelita Faisao, and Ray Pangelinan. Two members have yet to be confirmed. **(Kimberly Bautista)**

his liberty, she finds that he is entitled to a preliminary examination under the NMI Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Kim-Tenorio said under NMI Rules of Criminal Procedure, a defendant has a right to a preliminary examination unless he or she waives this right.

In this case, the judge said, where Pehnos has not waived his right to a preliminary examination, the onus rests with the government to explicitly content why he should be deprived of this right.

"Simply stating that the conditions of defendant's pretrial release do not impose a substantial deprivation of liberty does not meet that burden,"

Kim-Tenorio pointed out.

Last Dec. 4, police arrested Pehnos at his workplace for an alleged child abuse incident that took place on June 4, 2019 in Kagman.

The Office of the Attorney



Glass



Kim-Tenorio

General charged Pehnos with two counts of child abuse. On Dec. 12, he was released to a third-party custodian on an unsecured \$5,000 appearance bond and subject to pretrial release conditions.

The pretrial release conditions require Pehnos to return to court, obey all laws, keep appointments with his attorney, not apply for a passport, stay away from seaports and airports, and may not consume or possess alcoholic beverages.

The court also ordered a home study, as well as home checks conducted by the Division of Youth Services, to ensure defendant's compliance.

A preliminary hearing was then scheduled for Dec. 17, 2019.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr., counsel for the government, moved to vacate preliminary hearing.

The motion hearing was held last Dec. 17.

Glass argued that Pehnos is not subject to a substantial de-

privation of liberty as required to trigger the right to a preliminary hearing.

In his opposition, Pehnos, through his counsel assistant public defender Karie Comstock, argued that he is subject to a substantial deprivation of his liberty as a direct result of the constraints placed on him by the conditions of his pretrial release.

In her order issued Monday, Judge Kim-Tenorio disagreed with the government's argument that none of the conditions of defendant's pretrial release impose a substantial deprivation of liberty.

Kim-Tenorio said while not all conditions of Pehnos' pretrial release individually contribute to the substantial deprivation of his liberty, when combined, most of the conditions in this case do.

Free Pesticide Safety Training set for Jan. 24

Syngenta Seeds, a subsidiary of Syngenta AG, will be hosting a free Pesticide Safety Training for people who plant (or want to plant) crops in the CNMI at the Northern Marianas College on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on Jan. 24, 2020 from 9am to 1pm.

The hands-on, interactive Pesticide Safety Training will cover general pesticide safety, hazard communication, worker protection standard training elements, decontamination,

personal protective equipment, pesticide application compliance, employer responsibilities, and rights.

The Pesticide Safety Training will also provide a grower compliance kit that will include visual aids and training tools to use with employees, sample compliance and training forms. This kit will be available in the following languages, English, Thai, Mandarin, Tagalog, Ilokano, and Korean.

The Pesticide Safety Training will be held at the Northern Marianas College on Saipan in building J-15 from 9am to 1pm, on Tinian in Room C from 9am to 1pm, and on Rota in Room A-1 from 9am to 1pm. Tinian and Rota will also be live streaming to Saipan.

Coffee, pastries, and lunch will also be provided at all three locations. RSVPs are appreciated for better food planning.

For more information, contact Amy Wolfe of AgSafe call 1(800) 498-9735, text 209-857-0016, or email safeinfo@agsafe.org.

"The mission of AgSafe is to provide practical health and safety education to the agricultural community. Since 1991 we have trained over 75,000 employers, supervisors and farm workers in the most critical issues impacting worker safety, human resources, pesticide safety, and food safety." **(Justine Nauta)**



AYESHA CABRERA
AAS Business Management

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Register for NMC's **Spring 2020 Semester** today!

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Attend a **FREE Info Session** on
January 9, 2020

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January 21, 2020

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Placement Exam Dates
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🌐 www.marianas.edu

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Office on Aging wants congregants to be more active



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Photos of posing congregants adorn the welcome sign at the Office of Aging in Matsue Street, China Town.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Office on Aging director Walter Manglona encourages all senior citizens who are 60 years of age or older to participate in their daily programs and activities so they can be active and maintain their good health.

Activities are held Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 2pm at the Man Amko' Center in Matsue Street, China Town.

The Office on Aging offers daily services such as support-

ive services, nutrition services, transportation services, and Senior Community Service Employment Program.

The programs that are offered to help senior citizens relax are music sessions, arts and crafts, morning stretches, movie productions, talent shows, Fun Fridays, spirit week, their annual event Man'Amko' King and Queen Fundraiser, and more.

Daily lunch meals are also provided to registered senior citizens who are in the facility or home-bound.

For senior citizens who still want to continue to work, the Office on Aging offers a program called the Senior Community Service Employment Program. It is a training program for senior citizens who are 55 years of age or older needing additional skills in order to join the workforce.

To become an active congregant or homebound client, you must be 60 years of age and older, and for the SCSEP program and discount card program, you must be 55 years of age and older.



A gym facility is available indoors at the Office of Aging in Matsue Street, China Town.



Musical instruments are available indoors at the Office of Aging in Matsue Street, China Town.

The Office on Aging's mission is to develop, coordinate, and deliver support services to senior citizens with or without disabilities. They plan to maximize their client's indepen-

dence, well-being, and health. The Office on Aging intends to provide opportunities for senior citizens to play an active role in the community and to have a system designed to

assist senior citizens to "live their lives with meaning and dignity."

For more information on the Office on Aging, call (670) 664-1321.

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times, and locations:

■ Thursday, Jan 9, 2020, 3pm to 6pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1 and Kiya 3 distribution circuits
- Village location: China Town and Gualo Rai
- Power service area(s) affected: China Town, Garapan, Upper Gualo Rai and Gualo Rai Middle Road
- Water facilities affected: As Falape Booster and GR Wells
- Water service area(s) affected for the following ar-

reas: As Falape and Gualo Rai areas

□ Wastewater facility affected: GR- I Lift Station

■ Saturday, Jan. 11 & 18, 2020, 6am to 11am

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
- Village location: Lower Base
- Power service area(s) affected: Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis, Marpi
- Water facilities affected: All MQ wells
- Water service area(s) affected: San Roque, As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Lower Base
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: SR-1, SR-2, SR-3, T-1, T-3
- The purpose of the sched-

uled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely conduct maintenance of the power distribution system and construct a new overhead power distribution line. The new power distribution line will serve as a power delivery point from the impending Aggreko power station to the CUC electric power grid. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

ACCOUNTANT I

Re-Announcement #JVA20-005

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and direct supervision of the Director of Courts or his/her designee on Saipan which involves work in the maintenance and examination of accounting records and procedures and in the preparation of analysis of financial reports. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Maintain various ledgers, registers, journals and other records required in fiscal operations;
- Furnishes budgetary data to higher-level accountants for budget analysis;
- Prepares financial statements and reports for review by supervisor and operating personnel;
- Maintains records necessary for the determination and reporting of federal expenditures and fund balances;
- Takes trial balances and makes adjusting and closing entries;
- Verifies and analyses financial data and prepares financial statements and reports;
- Participates in the collection, compilation, classifications and evaluation of fiscal data;
- Maintains budgetary accounts and financial records for an office;
- Maintains control accounts so that the status of funds may be determined;
- Post entries to these accounts from supporting documents;
- Post and balances journals and ledgers and reconciles accounts;
- Coordinates work of the clerical staff in an office;
- Assists in preparing budget estimates by gathering pertinent information from various book of accounts;
- Assigns and reviews the work of others for accuracy and completeness;
- Explains departmental procedures to other employees and the public; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and should have a combination equivalent to graduation from college or university with a BA major in accounting or related field, a minimum of two (2) years experience in accounting work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$22,000.00 - \$24,000.00 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)234-4252
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMJJudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support group meeting Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support group meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 9, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolinian Room. The guest speaker is Lynn Tenorio, research assistant, University of Guam. Her presentation will be on the Betel Nut Intervention Trials Project. (BENIT).

To RSVP or for more information, please call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

CHCC Children’s Clinic to open on Saturdays for appointments

To better accommodate patient schedules and the growing demand for primary care, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Children’s Clinic at the main Navy Hill campus will begin accepting appointments on Saturdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm effective Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020.

“Thanks to the very hard work of our Children’s Clinic staff, our primary care patient volume has significantly increased, so hours and staffing are expanding to meet the demand. Access to primary care improves health outcomes, so this is a positive step to help our young patients avoid ER and hospital visits,” said CHCC CEO Esther Muna.

No walk-ins will be accepted at the Children’s Clinic on Saturdays. To schedule an appointment, call (670) 234-8951.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950. (PR)

NAP schedules

The Nutrition Assistance Program Office will be distributing benefits and re-certifying households whose case records end with “1.” Following are the schedules for the ensuing days:

Date	Day	Case Record Ending with:
Jan. 6, 2020	Monday	“3”

Jan. 7, 2020	Tuesday	“4”
Jan. 8, 2020	Wednesday	“5”
Jan. 9, 2020	Thursday	“6”
Jan. 10, 2020	Friday	“7”
Jan. 13, 2020	Monday	“8”
Jan. 14, 2020	Tuesday	“9”
Jan. 15, 2020	Wednesday	“0”

For more information, contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 237-2843 or visit its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nap.cnmi>. (PR)

‘A Night with the Knights’ set

Mount Carmel School’s AlumKnight Association invites AlumKnights and community members to the association’s fundraising banquet, “Night with the Knights” on Feb. 1, 2020, in the Magellan at the Pacific Islands Club from 6pm to 10pm. This year’s event will feature a school yearbook montage, raffle prizes, music, dancing, and the announcement of the 2020 AlumKnight of the Year and the 2020 Class of the Year. Tickets are \$50 per person. AlumKnights interested in purchasing a table for their class and family can contact Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com. Tickets are also available at the school’s Business Office. (PR)

Guam advisory on income tax filing

The Department of Revenue and Taxation in Guam is currently preparing to update its programming and processing systems for the 2020 income tax filing season, which is for tax year 2019. DRT will not be accepting individual or corporate income tax returns for tax year 2019 at this time. We will advise at a later time on an official date when tax returns will be accepted. (PR)

Navy training in Dandan-Malojloj, open ocean, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on Jan. 6-9 in Dandan-Malojloj.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct live-fire training from 7am to 4pm on Jan 6-10 at Warning Area 517.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open ocean exercises from

10am to 9pm on Jan. 7-8 at the following coordinates: 13°29’N/144°25’E. The public, fishermen, and boat operators are advised to remain clear within five nautical miles of the training area.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

Ukulele classes at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for beginner and intermediate ukulele class is ongoing. It is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$50. Ukulele classes are held at the public library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children. Sessions are set to begin on Jan. 7, 2020, every Tuesday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on “First come; first paid.” Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a 3-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver Form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures. For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. (PR)

Kumisión I Fino’ CHamoru meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino’ CHamoru yan i Fina’ña’guen i Historia yan i Lina’la’i Taotao Tãno’* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first January monthly meeting on Jan. 9, 2020, Thursday from 12:30pm to 3pm at the Guam Museum conference room, in Hågatña. Call Roland Blas, Kumisión secretary for special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 or email at rolandblas1973@gmail.com. (PR)



DUCK BOAT/BUS (AMPHIBIOUS)
NOTICE OF AUCTION/BIDDING

1945 GMC DUKW Model: Body Style: Bus/Boat
Color: Changed from Yellow color to Camouflage
Weight: 7816: Cylinder: 6: Capacity: 34 Passengers

For more Information

Please contact Bank of Guam counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750.
Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. **Minimum bid for the Duck Boat is \$38,800.00.** Any bid(s) less than the minimum bid will be rejected. Bid submissions will be closed at 4 pm on January 24, 2020. Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on January 24, 2020. Bank of Guam reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A “Duck Boat” bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam through Counsel at Robert T. Torres Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instruction

1. This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Bank of Guam. The bidding is conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Bank reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.
2. The Duck Boat/Bus is offered for bid and sale “as is” and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as an amphibious craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.
3. All sales shall be by Cash or Cashier’s Check. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.
4. If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and take delivery. Otherwise the next highest bidder shall be considered. The Bank of Guam reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.
5. Inspections: Any person wishing to inspect the unit may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to inspect the unit located at Torres Refrigeration on Airport Road.
6. All bids are final.



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator
Director, DEQ
Janice Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality regulates the commercial use of pesticides and the use of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) in the CNMI. In accordance with NMIAC § 65-70-400, persons who use or supervise the use of any pesticide for commercial purposes and persons who uses, sells, or distributes RUPs must obtain a certification.

To obtain a pesticide applicator certification an individual must meet the eligibility requirements and pass a written competency examination with a score of seventy percent (70%) or higher. Exams are administered and held at the BECQ Office in Gualo Rai, Saipan on the 2nd Monday of each month from 9:00-11:00 AM. Exams are administered upon request on Rota and Tinian in coordination with the DEQ Pesticide Program. Exam results are confidential and will be sent within the next five (5) business days after the exam date. Successful applicants, must submit a certification application along with the appropriate certification fees; fifty dollars (\$50) for commercial applicator and ten dollars (\$10) for private applicator.

Applicants may renew certification by attending continuing education units (CEUs) offered by any US state or territory, relevant to the certification category. The CEUs will only be counted if the courses were taken during the time of current certification, none will be counted from courses before certification issuance date. A minimum of twelve (12) CEUs are required for commercial applicators and a minimum of six (6) CEUs for private applicators. In the event the applicator is unable to attend CEUs the applicant must pass another examination to ensure continuing level of competency and ability to use pesticides safely and properly.

The upcoming Ag Safe Food & Farms Pesticide Safety Training for Growers is equivalent to three (3) hours of CEUs for the Agricultural Pest Control category. To register for the training call or visit BECQ.

For more information please contact BECQ at 664-8500 or visit us at www.deq.gov.mp

Speakers set for MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 23

Leaders in the volunteer community have signed on as guest speakers at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2020.

The annual summit will feature Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero, CNMI Public School System middle school teacher Victor Cabrera, American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter executive director John Hirsch, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce Financial and Data Management coordinator Franco M. Santos.

The theme of this year's summit, co-organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), is "VolunTOURISM: Learn today. Lead tomorrow," reflecting the opportunities available to students to engage

with the industry and learn today in preparation for the leadership roles they will take in the industry in the future. This year's summit will be held at Fiesta Resort & Sapa with students from MY WAVE Clubs—Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically—in grades 5-12 chosen by their respective schools to participate.

Guerrero has served at the helm of MINA since 2017. The community-based, non-profit organization was formed by a group of people whose dedication and compassion for the environment felt the need to promote and advocate for the protection and restoration of natural resources in The Marianas and Micronesia.

Since 2010, Cabrera has taught 8th-grade Career and Technical Education: Explor-



Guerrero

ing Agriculture teaches at Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School. Cabrera was recognized by the Northern Marianas Islands Humanities Council as the 2018 Outstanding Humanities Teacher in the Classroom, an award given to teachers who make a great impact and contribution



Cabrera

to the local community. Mr. Cabrera has been featured in local newspapers for his skills and talent in farming and agriculture and his impact on student learning. He provides his students with hands-on learning activities in gardening and farming and coordinates student activities to promote



Santos

farming and consumptions of local produce.

Hirsch serves as executive director of the NMI chapter of the American Red Cross. American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and generosity of donors.

Santos joined the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Financial and Data Management Coordinator in July 2019. Prior to that, he served as local market developer at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We have a great lineup of dynamic and passionate leaders in our Marianas community that will share their knowledge and vision with the students at this year's summit," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Community service is an important part of our Marianas tourism economy, and we hope the students will be inspired to become involved in volunteerism, even at a young age. This will help make them better leaders in the future."

Summit sponsors are E-Land Group of Companies (Kensington Hotel and PIC Saipan), T Galleria by DFS, TSL Foundation, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, D&Q, First Hawaiian Bank, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, IT&E, Matson Navigation Co., Triple J Saipan, and Sorenson Media Group.

The summit will also feature exhibits by the MVA, MINA, Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Lions Club International, 500 Sails, and others.

Interested sponsors may contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or call 1.670.664.3210 for a sponsorship package. (PR)

Investigators plan to move Hawaii helicopter crash wreckage

HONOLULU (AP)—U.S. investigators said Thursday they were waiting for weather to clear so they may send a recovery team to retrieve the wreckage of a tour helicopter that crashed last week into a remote mountain ridge on the Hawaii island of Kauai and killed seven people.

The wreckage will be removed by helicopter, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Eric Weiss said.

Typically investigators go to wreckage sites and take photos and detailed measurements to help determine the cause of crashes. But Weiss said the agency believes it would be safer to remove the wreckage for the investigation instead of sending investigators



there given the difficulty of reaching the crash site. The wreckage will be moved to

an undisclosed, secure location, he said.

The other options would

have been to send investigators on a 4-to-8 hour hike through dense forest to get to the crash site, or to tether investigators to a helicopter and fly them there. There is no place to land an aircraft where the helicopter crashed.

"We felt it was a safer option to move the helicopter first for

the examination," Weiss said.

Investigators are confident they have enough information on the crash site because of drone photos and video and an overflight survey, he said.

The agency expects to release its preliminary report on the crash in a couple of weeks. Its full investigation could take one to two years.

The agency said Tuesday the tour helicopter hit a ridge at an altitude of 2,900 feet (883 meters) then fell about 100 feet (30 meters). The helicopter's commercial pilot and six passengers were killed.

Four of the six passengers were a family from Switzerland. Two others were from Madison, Wisconsin.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 08, 1999

Governor gets wage panel organized

Under fresh threats of a federal takeover of the commonwealth's control over labor and minimum wage, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday convened the wage review committee whose task is to set a new minimum wage for local industries. This is the first time the governor met with the members of the review committee since a law creating it was put in place in July to dampen efforts of Washington to clip the powers of the Northern Marianas to set minimum wage and control immigration.

"This is just an initial meeting and try to organize the committee," Tenorio said. Another meeting has been scheduled for January 28 to elect the chairman of the wage review committee, he added.

Trade zones in place before year-end

The Economic Recovery and Revitalization Task Force is targeting to establish free trade zones in the Northern Marianas before the end of 1999, a new route being explored by the government to diversify the tourism-dependent island economy.

The ambitious plan eyes to set up free trade zones on Saipan, Rota and Tinian by the last quarter of the year and will be marketed as new investment destination in the region beginning March.

"The Free Trade Zones Committee has plans to have our product complete ready for marketing (by) March 15, said committee chairman Bob Jones, in a report to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

January 08, 2001

More savings scam victims coming out

Investigators said the amount collected from 45 Chinese garment factory workers by a couple who perpetrated the savings scam on the island has already reached over \$100,000.

Twenty more workers will be filing their complaint with the police this week as they admitted having been duped into depositing their money to Zhida Market, owned by Chinese couple Lin Zu Xiu and Li Rui Yuan.

The workers who were victimized were from L&T Garment Factory, Mirage Garment Factory and its sister company Commonwealth Garment Factory.

Police said the entire amount collected by the couple from the garment factory workers will be determined this week as they hope to complete the gathering of statement within that period.

Sweeney takes 1st trip to CNMI

Republican congressman John E. Sweeney of New York will keynote the annual gala installation of the 2001 Board of Directors of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, CNMI's largest business organization, on Saturday at the Hyatt Regency.

This will be Mr. Sweeney's first trip to the CNMI, according to the Chamber. While on Saipan, he will have an opportunity to brief with local business and CNMI leaders, as well as enjoy some of the island's visitor attractions.

The theme for this year's gala installation dinner is "A Cel-

ebation of Business in the Marianas."

"After the success of last year's installation dinner where we had a U.S. Congressman as our guest, the Chamber's board of directors voted to invite another American politician this year," said outgoing Chamber President Lynn A. Knight.

January 08, 2005

Commonwealth coming of age

January 9 marks the 27th year anniversary of the Commonwealth as a form of government of the Northern Mariana Islands. January 15 is coming-of-age day in Japan when 20-year-olds are ceremonially accepted as adults. Both celebrations are officially observed today in the CNMI. There is no official connection between the two but their conjunction this year raises the question: What does coming of age mean for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?

Sam McPhetres, our senior resident social studies guru, in characteristic northern European fashion, defines Commonwealth first for what it is not. It is not any variation of monarchy and dictatorship. Nor is it anarchy, though some may suggest that it function like one. "It is something very different from all of them, a special kind of democracy," he writes in his book on CNMI Civics.

So, what model of governance have we adopted? In the U.S.A., Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky identify themselves as Commonwealths. The distinction however, is lost on how they may be different from any of the other States of the Union. Since 1952 Puerto Rico has identified itself as a U.S. Commonwealth. In 1978, the CNMI followed. Both are autonomous local governments federated with the U.S. government.

Sailors utilize every inch of space aboard *Key West*



PHOTOS BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS KELSEY HOCKENBERGER

SANTA RITA, Guam—Culinary Specialist (Submarine) 1st Class Samuel Lewis, from Beaufort, N.C., stores food in the dry storage compartment during an onload of provisions aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722). *Key West* is one of four forward-deployed submarines assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen out of Polaris Point, Guam.

SANTA RITA, Guam—Sailors from the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722) prepared for their next mission by transferring supplies on the pier at Naval Base Guam, January 3.

The supply transfer consisted of food that will sustain over 150 Sailors for three meals a day lasting over 90 days in the ocean depths.

“Planning for this evolution is extremely important to the mission and readiness of our submarines,” said Lt. Cmdr. Dave Dyal, the Submarine Squadron Fifteen supply officer. “This is what gives us the ability to create a self-sustaining submarine that will navigate the depths of the ocean without the need to surface.”

Months ahead of a deployment or underway, the ship’s culinary specialists plan how to feed the entire crew.

“To sustain the crew of a submarine with the intent of rarely surfacing, we need to coordinate every meal, snack and drink that each Sailor will

consume,” said Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Donta Allen, from Mobile, Ala. “We don’t have the luxury of a replenishment-at-sea to receive more goods, so we have to plan and coordinate what meals we will make and how we can store them in such a small place.”

No nook or cranny is left open on the submarine. The chefs aboard the submarine

utilize almost every space on the boat to store the food.

“If parts aren’t going in the space, then the food is,” said Culinary Specialist (Submarine) 1st Class Samuel Lewis, from Beaufort, N.C., assigned to the *Key West*. “We hang bags of food in the engine room to storing our shortening in the sonar spaces. It’s all about utilizing every space on a submarine”



Electronics Technician (Nuclear) 3rd Class Andrew Wood, from San Antonio, passes a can of food to Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Seaman William Minge, from Lebanon, Ohio, in the auxiliary tank during an onload of provisions aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722).



Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Bryan Cooper (left), from Lake City, S.C., passes a can of food to Yeoman (Submarine) Seaman Janeal Green, from Miami, during an onload of provisions aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722).



Culinary Specialist (Submarine) 1st Class Samuel Lewis, from Beaufort, N.C., stores food in the dry storage compartment during an onload of provisions aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722).

During a course of a two day loadout, thousands of pounds of food and supplies will make its way aboard the submarine.

“This evolution takes hours and hours of getting the food from the pier to the boat and from the box to its storage area,” said Allen. “After it’s

loaded onto the boat, we inventory our supplies once biweekly to ensure we are always on schedule to continue our operations at sea.”

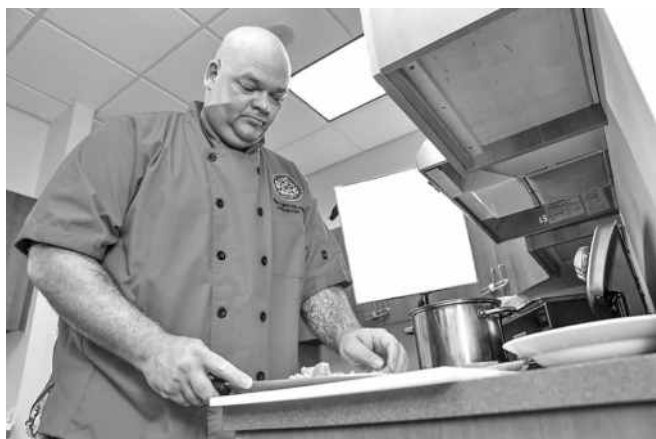
Key West is one of four Los Angeles-class fast attack submarines assigned to CSS-15, which is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in

Apra Harbor, Guam. The squadron staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands.

Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) and USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39). The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy’s only forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, visit our official CSS-15 website at <http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15> and our official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15/>.

Are you interested in taking orders to Guam? Want to learn more about the duty station and life on our island? For more information, check out the ‘Go Guam!’ website at <http://www.csp.navy.mil/go-guam/> and download the ‘1st Fifteen’ checklist. (PR)



IMPROVING RECIPES TO BOOST MORALE

SANTA RITA, Guam—Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Mike Halavin, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen food service officer, prepares tomatoes for a modified Texas tortilla soup recipe in the kitchen at CSS-15. Halavin prepared the recipe, modified to incorporate freeze dried chicken, to test the soup for a submission to improve recipes and boost morale in the Navy.

PHOTOS BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS KELSEY HOCKENBERGER



Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Mike Halavin, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen food service officer, washes a jalapeño for a modified Texas tortilla soup recipe in the kitchen at CSS-15. Halavin prepared the recipe, modified to incorporate freeze dried chicken, to test the soup for a submission to improve recipes and boost morale in the Navy.



Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Mike Halavin, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen food service officer, taste tests a modified Texas tortilla soup recipe in the kitchen at CSS-15.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Pope is right to warn of 'walls of indifference' in the age of refugees

In our tumultuous political climate and too often cynical world, even pleas to help the most vulnerable among us are sometimes interpreted as personal attacks used to score points against one's political opponent.

Sadly, that's how many on the left and the right viewed Pope Francis' Christmas Day address at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City when he prayed for migrant families and refugees around the world and condemned the "walls of indifference" and "inhumane detention camps" they often encounter.

Instead of seeing his prayer for what it was — a call to all human beings, on the left and the right, Christian and non-Christian, to understand the forces that cause people to flee their homes and to see migrants and refugees for what they are, fellow human beings suffering — many pundits saw it as a criticism of President Donald Trump and the wall he's promised to build on our southern border.

This is not only misguided and cynical, it misinterprets the purpose of the pope's prayer and his efforts to draw attention to what he has called the "globalization of indifference", a growing trend toward "extreme individualism" and a "utilitarian mentality" in economically advanced societies.

This, as he said Sept. 29, the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, is "not just about migrants." It's about a world where "migrants, refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking have become emblems of exclusion. In addition to the hardships that their condition entails, they are often looked down upon and considered the source of all society's ills." That, he continued, is "an alarm bell" warning of "moral decline" in our consumer societies that too often see goods and individuals as disposable.

We may not agree with everything this pope says or does, but we certainly agree that how we treat the displaced and the "poorest of the poor" says a great deal about who we are as a nation. While he's sometimes derided (or praised, depending on one's politics) as a left-leaning thinker, he's often called business "a noble vocation" and given thanks for the jobs and wealth created by capitalism the world over. But he's also consistently said that "an economic system detached from ethical concerns does not bring about a more just social order, but leads instead to a 'throwaway' culture of consumption and waste."

While national borders and immigration laws should of course be respected, heaven help us all if we as a nation begin to see families seeking refuge and a better life in the U.S. as somehow disposable.

When historians look back on the decade just ended, they may very well refer to it as the "decade of refugees." According to the United Nations, an unprecedented 70.8 million people have been "forcibly displaced" worldwide, and "37,000 people are forced to flee their homes every day due to conflict or persecution."

Tragically, the exodus continues. Families continue to flee war, social unrest, poverty and persecution in Syria and

See POPE on Next Page



War crimes? That's not how to deter Iran

On Sunday President Donald Trump raised the possibility of targeting Iranian cultural sites as part of the ongoing conflict with Iran. He has since received plenty of criticism, but rather than just piling on — though I too think it is a bad idea — I think it is worth looking at the broader calculus of how to choose an appropriate target for retaliation.

Under current circumstances the retaliatory options include targeted assassinations, strikes at military targets, escalating cyberattacks, escalating proxy wars, and now attacks on cultural sites. (Tough sanctions are already in place.)

One reason not to strike at cultural sites is that it puts the U.S. government in some very pernicious company. The Taliban destroyed historic Buddhist monuments in Afghanistan to help make the country more Islamic. Hitler wanted his generals to detonate Paris as they were retreating, though fortunately they refused to do so. Such policies are now considered to be war crimes.

A second reason is that the Iranian government itself has mixed feelings toward those cultural sites. Some remind Iranian citizens of their country's pre-Islamic heritage, while others in their splendor stand as reminders that Iran, formerly Persia, was once one of the world's great powers. That invites unfavorable comparisons to Iran's current status. Destroying those sites would turn them from implied rebukes of the current Islamic Republic into symbols of it.

Maybe Trump's threat to attack cultural sites was not meant literally, but rather as a brash reminder that his retaliatory actions will not be constrained by world opinion, international law or the views of American elites. If so, such a signal, to be effective, has to harm the Iranian regime. Trump's message shows that he doesn't understand the calculus of retaliation very well.

Assassinating a military leader by drone, by contrast, is something the U.S. can do but the Iranian government cannot, at least not easily or without provoking even greater retaliation. That makes such a policy an effective deterrent in the short run, as it hurts the actual decision maker, and indeed that is what Trump chose to do.

By mentioning cultural sites, he in essence has decided to follow a very strong signal of action with a much weaker signal of words. If you are a hawk, you should understand that Trump's talk of cultural sites is weakening his core message that retaliation will be effective. It is usually better game theory to follow up a highly impactful action with relative silence, but silence never has been Trump's strong suit.

To be clear, it remains to be seen whether the killing of Qassem Soleimani will be good policy. Perhaps Iran cannot or will not retaliate against Americans right now. In the longer run, however, such decisions normalize targeted assassinations as tools of for-

By **TYLER COWEN**
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog *Marginal Revolution*. His books include *Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*.



eign policy. Over time, effective drones will become more widely available, and Americans will become more likely as targets.

In fairness to Trump, it should be noted that Barack Obama escalated such drone assassinations in several countries to an unprecedented degree, often killing innocent bystanders in the process. The primary difference is that Trump chose a higher-value target, but the logic of drone assassinations — if you accept it — argues for going after higher-value targets. Thus I don't find current criticisms of the strike very convincing. The better argument is simply that both Obama and Trump have opened up a Pandora's Box that Americans will someday come to regret.

And what about the other options?

Attacking or bombing military targets is an old deterrence standby, but these days it doesn't seem to send much of a signal. Did the U.S. missile strike on the Shayrat airbase in Syria in 2017 have much of an impact?

Cyberattacks have been used to limit the Iranian nuclear program, and perhaps in other instances. But they don't deliver an obvious public message. At any rate, cyberattacks don't seem like the appropriate response in this case, given that Iran appears to have attacked the Saudi oil fields in September and was behind last week's storming of the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, both highly visible events.

Escalating proxy wars might be another option. But doing so would play into the hands of the Iranian government, which cares about those conflicts more than the U.S. does.

And so on the spectrum of possible responses, assassinating military leaders emerges as the best idea, relatively speaking, with targeting cultural sites as the worst. But the deeper question is how America got itself into a situation where the best retaliatory idea is still pretty bad, especially in the longer run. The point of retaliation is to protect your long-term interests. If effective retaliation is now a short-term tool, then U.S. foreign policy is in very bad shape indeed.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Haf' Mohon I 2020?

Hu esgaihon halum i primet ora gi nuebu na sakan gi hilu' ginagau bendision na u felis hinanau 2020. Gi mismu tiempu mesgu' ñaihon lagu' mata-hu pot minesngun todú gi halum todú modun mattiru.

Hu repasan ñaihon finapos-hu yan mañeluhu piot i esta man-madisponse. Mit gracias pot todú animun niha. Ni unu sumeha man-aligau satbasion todú.

Ai na animu man-epañglau, ayuyu, manog hatsadu, umañg yan talapia ginen sadog sisonyan. Ayu 'nai hu chage haf' sabotña talapia. Pot guihan un' kakanu' lau pau odda'. Fina pus popble!

Enfin, adumididi' ta mueba hit guatu gi moseria pot mas libi-anu gi mantension familia ke che'chu' gualu' gi papa' somnag. Lau este na fina' adelantu humuyuñg dis-adelantu gi tinilaikan Navy esta Interior. Menus cho'chu' yan appottunadat. Mana' lu hit tatte gi gualu' yan tasi.

Uttimoña felis ginagau-ta separau na gobietnamentu gi haf' tagogosa pa'gu. Lamayot patte felis hinanau-ta desde 1972. I dikiki' na industrian turista sumustene kinalamten-ta esta pa'gu na tiempu. Sin este kase diariu mañaga hit gi gualu' yan tasi mediú petmanente. ---

Animu: Maseha dispasiu i kinalamten cha'mu hinahalañg sa' naturat masusede. Haf' no mamamaila'?

I primera asuntu i suetdun popble gi kase 15-mit na empleau siha guine. Debi u guaha adelantu gi monedan familia para u disiente kinalamten halum guma'. Siña mohon masatba este pat "not yet, already?"

Ta pulan este yan otu mansustansiau siha na asuntu para ta asegu na i disision siha benefisiosu para i linahyan.

■ ■ ■

Kimasson: Dañkulun kimasson gi sanlichan na patte giya Australia. I lineka' asu kontodu pagyu yan hulu ha fotma. Mas ke miyon hektarias esta kimasson. Masita tres mit na sendalu para u fan man-ayuda umataha i dañkulu na guafe.

Puede chadeg mapunu' ayu na dañkulun guafe ya u bira siha i los probes tatte gi otdinariu na ha'anen niha. Mit pot mit na tautau dumiñgu lugat niha pot para umasuhaye kimasson ni esta

guaha mas ke mit na guma' ha soñge.

Ti siña hu komprende ayu na destrosiu lau inipus dañkulu kontra manadan familia ni mandinisplanta. Ai na destrosiu gi linala' familia 'nai kimasson todú guinahan niha.

■ ■ ■

Moneda: I kinalamten iya Marianas u dinitetmina ni moneda gi kaha. Puede ti maribaha na sakan pot nesessidat tautau-ta siha gi bandan edukasion, hinemlu' yan otu siha setbisiu.

Lamayot patte gi kinalamten ekonomia guine mau'udai gi dikiki' na industrian turista. Ti nahuñg fuetsan koduta guine na patte mina' ti man-obra hit mañgalamten. Ta chule' adumididi' gi hilu' manu guaha gi moneda. Namagof i guaha sat-tun na inadahe.

Disposision: Esta mas 47 años desde ke ta gobietnan maisa hit. Mauleg ta offisiona regulatmiente umebalua kualidat setbisiu siha guine. Rason? Hita umapapase suetdun niha kontodu setbisiu.

Dispues, debi tapan sattun gi inebaluan setbisiu siha yan kau presisu na u guaha tat kuetpu kumu dos na guma' lehislatu? Magahet na ta nesessita manadan depattamientu yan ahensia ni puru gastu sin benefisiu?

Dispues, kuantu mas na lai ta nesessita?

Inebalua: Ilegu na presisu na ta ebalua kritikatomiente kualidat setbisiun publiku siha guine. Este solu manera 'nai siña ta afuetsas mas pronto yan kualidat na setbisiu. Taya' u inaminasa sa' ta apapase!

Kontodu fasilidat hinemlu' Tinian yan Luta mauleg u guaha seriosu na inebalua. Piot iya Luta ni chagu' yan sentrun bisnis giya Saipan.

Makat na asuntu malañgun familia piot ayu i debi umana' hanau ginen unu gi dos islas para Saipan. Makat i karera kontodu i man-akompapaña. Malofan-yu' guine na kañada pot siete años sigidu mina' hu komprende i asuntu pahina pot pahina.

Siña ta bisita i asuntu lau mientras taya' fotmat na planun satbasion pues sedi i presente na areglu ya umakontinua estake manlistu hit. Hinemlu' yan linala' tautau-ta!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Ekonomia: I kualidat linala' tautau-ta mau'udai lamayot patte gi homlu' na ekonomian tanu'. Kumeke ileghu debi u bula fondu yan cho'chu' guine para u kubre nesessidat todú.

Estague' midision hinemlu' ekonomia 'nai libianu hinanau familia siha diariu. Yangin unu 'sino todú i dos fatsu pues ti homlu' ekonomian i tanu'.

Fuera de dikiki' na industrian turista haf' otu kinalamten ni mauleg u fan ma-adelanta kosake u guaha mas fondu yan cho'chu' guine? I asuntu kulan maput pot presisu na hita mismu tafañgalamten.

I asuntu gaige lamayot patte gi kualidat setbisiu.

Kinalamten: Gaige gi moneda apas nesessidat siha guine. I totat matulalaika segun kinalamten ekonomia (bisnis) gi sakan. Lau debi umasuda'e nesessidat publiku!

Estotbu giya guahu hiniyuñg bisnis Japones siha guine gi halacha. Kuestion: kuantu humuyuñg ginen ekonomian i tanu' gi hinanau niha? Dispues, kau guaha mas aduana humalum ni kumubre este na maliñgu? Kase guaha tautau gi gima' hombre mañiñila' i kandet, no?

Responsablidad-ta kumetuñgu' kuantu na fiñkas Japones malagnus ginen iya Marianas. Debi u tinatiye este gi kau guaha katsu humalum ni kumubre este na maliñgu. Pat mapunu' "not yet, already" i asuntu? Malag manu i sensian responsablidad publiku?

My month without the internet

I didn't understand how badly I was addicted until I was forced to go cold turkey. It happened during a monthlong retreat to Scotland, where I'd been given a chance to work on my new book uninterrupted by the inconveniences of daily life. The administrators fed me, did my laundry, cleaned my room and the bathroom and left me alone. I didn't have to pay bills or walk the dog or water any plants. They even delivered lunch — silently — in a lovely wicker basket right to my door.

It was my dream of a perfect writing environment, except for one thing: There was no internet or cellphone service. I don't mean in my bedroom, or that it was only in the library, or that it was old-fashioned and slow. It simply did not exist. I'd been so excited about the opportunity, I hadn't stopped to think about how the lack of internet would affect me.

I'm not a digital native. I remember life before personal computers and email. I've never thought of myself as someone who spends a lot of time online. But during those first days in Scotland, the lack of WiFi was horrible. I sat in front of my computer, but instead of communing with my muse, I was anxious, distracted, aware of my heart thumping too loudly in my chest. Classic withdrawal symptoms. Worst of all, I felt claustrophobic, trapped in a foreign country without a car or an Uber connection or the ability to Google a bus schedule.

In the past, safe at home with my high-speed WiFi, I have expounded on the dangers of modern technology. I've lectured my kids, students and friends about how it is lowering our intelligence, ruining our memories, altering the social construct. Parents are on

their phones at the park or the beach or while pushing the stroller instead of interacting with their children. Dinner party guests pick up their phones, ostensibly to answer some question — and then surreptitiously check Instagram. The dopamine hit from email, Twitter, texting has been scientifically studied and verified.

At my retreat, I discovered how much I missed that high. At home if I wrote a good sentence, I congratulated myself by checking email. Then I needed to see if those shoes I like have gone on sale, and after that if my sister's cat had surgery — of course accompanied by an upbeat little note to her. She's online a lot so I can count on her to write back quickly and then I reply and on and on it goes.

In Scotland I wanted to post pictures of the rolling countryside and the sheep and receive all the "amazing!" and "so cute!" and "lucky you!" affirmations. But I couldn't tell friends back home how beautiful it was, how delicious dinner had been, or how much work I'd done that day. I couldn't even tell my spouse I had arrived, my room was cozy, my fellow writers interesting. I couldn't tell him I wanted to come home. Those first few days I didn't do much writing.

I blamed it on a lack of access to information. I do a lot of research for my novels. Some might say I'm obsessive. It's hard for me to let any little unimportant detail go, what kind of buttons they had on double-breasted suits in the 1970s or what day of the week was March 26, 1998. That first day at the retreat, I was desperate to know the name of those little ceramic cups without handles in a Japanese tea set. It wasn't integral to the plot of my book. No one was in Japan or even really drinking tea; still, I felt I couldn't write the next scene without that single, specific word.

Finally I realized I was agitated not because I couldn't do research or communicate with my spouse. It was much deeper than that. I felt left out, missing what my friends were doing, seeing where they were having lunch or taking walks, or knowing what was blooming in their backyards. Did I even exist if I couldn't share my days, show my cyber community where I was, and exactly what I was doing? Why was it so important for me to see and be seen?

The retreat for writers at which I was staying began in the early 1980s, before the internet or cellphones. Writers came and worked — mostly with paper and pen — and sent the occasional postcard, a few of which probably arrived home after the writers. I reminded myself of this, and of the fact that many of my favorite books were

By DIANA WAGMAN

Los Angeles Times



Novelist and essayist Diana Wagman is a contributing writer to Opinion.

written by hand, with all the research done in a library and no one ever knowing how many words the writer wrote in a day.

Little by little I began to work. I had to. There was nothing else to do. I put three asterisks whenever I wanted to research something, so I would know to go back to it later. One day at the end of the second week I discovered I had written without stopping for four hours. I quit wondering what my friends were doing and, more importantly, wishing I could tell them what I was doing. I was enjoying myself and I was very, very productive. I had my five fellow retreat writers to talk with at dinner about our day's travails. I went on long walks as a reward and read books when I needed a break. I took a lot of pictures — my phone was still good for that — but I was taking them for myself.

"No internet is a deal breaker for me," a writer friend said when I told him about the residency. It almost was for me. Instead, the month without it changed me. They say it takes three weeks to break a habit. I hope this habit is broken.

I was home two days before I took out my computer and then only to organize the Christmas dinner potluck.

It's not that I've become a Luddite. I know social media is great for staying in touch with people far away. There is nothing better than the internet for looking up movie times, or to see if a celebrity has died, or checking out the adoptable dogs at the Humane Society. I love having an encyclopedia at my fingertips. But I don't need it all day long. That is my New Year's resolution: to continue to write without interrupting myself, to not check my email and to leave my phone in another room while I'm working.

Meanwhile, my many pages of work from this retreat are speckled with those three-star indicators that research is needed. I've already started filling in the blanks. The Japanese cup without handles is called a yunomi.






POPE

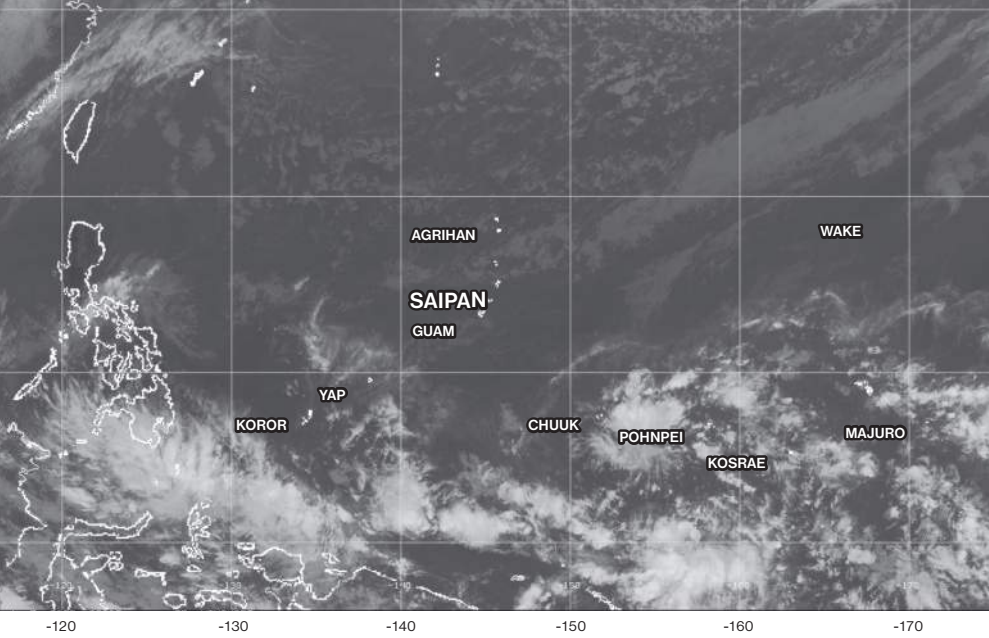
From Page 10

Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia, Myanmar and Congo. Closer to home, they're fleeing violence, poverty, tyranny and corruption in Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Venezuela, and other Central and South American countries.

It is by no means a political statement — or at least it shouldn't be — to say that these vulnerable mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, must be treated with respect, kindness and understanding, not indifference.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	75°	87°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:32 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows an old shear line fragment moving through the Guam and Rota waters. Most likely it will affect Tinian and Saipan as well, however radar is overshooting the low topped shear line clouds by the time it gets there. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 18 to 26 knots through the lowest 5 thousand feet which above that turn toward the east and diminish to between 15 and 20 knots. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet composed mainly of trade-wind swell and waves, both from the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	39° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	72° / 66°	
Honolulu	Windy	79° / 72°	
London	Showers	54° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	67° / 49°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Rain	88° / 55°	
Miami	Windy	77° / 73°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	35° / 32°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°	
Paris	Showers	55° / 45°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 34°	
Rome	Sunny	55° / 36°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	66° / 56°	
San Francisco	Showers	55° / 43°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 25°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	39° / 33°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
7:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.50	
11:54 AM	LOW TIDE	1.02	
5:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.66	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:59 AM	3:40 PM
Thursday	-	4:56 AM	4:33 PM
Friday	-	5:55 AM	5:30 PM
Saturday	-	6:54 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	-	7:51 AM	7:34 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily		SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
					SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1		OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6		TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7		3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR		OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
					UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily						
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		

Business

Pizza and more at Monster Pizza Pub

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Monster Pizza Pub located in Garapan welcomes everyone who loves pizza and more. In addition to pizza, they also offer pasta, chicken wings, grilled chicken salad, nacho cheese, and squid calamari, to name a few.

Owner Shuyun “Grace” Jo together with husband Be Chyul “James” Kim took over this business in September 2018. “The business started in Tinian which opened 13 years ago and when we opened two years ago in Garapan, we wanted not just a pizza place but a something that offers new pizza flavors that combines local and Korean flavors,” she said.

“I went around pizza places on Saipan and thought they all taste the similar. To do this, I

had to learn Korean delicious-style pizza and bring it here. We then fused in local taste and flavor that is why we have ten kinds of pizza flavor or toppings that our customers can choose from,” she added.

Their signature pizza called Beef Bulgogi Pizza is a hit for local customers. It is made of tomato sauce, Korean bulgogi, onions, mushroom, bell pepper, and bulgogi sauce. “A best seller with tourists is the Hawaiian Monster Pizza composed of thousand island sauce, mushroom, ham, capicum pepper, pineapple, and cheese. This is a traditional pizza dish during the Tinian operations. Another bestseller is the Spicy Chicken Garlic Pizza which has spicy tomato sauce, spicy chicken breast, jalapeno, olives, and fried garlic flakes,” Jo said.

“Our grilled chicken salad



is always served fresh and has two unique flavors that customers can choose from—strawberry and kiwi. The sauces are special as they are imported from Korea. From our pizzas to salads, we feel like we need to do something special, creative and unique so people will like it and come back for more,” Jo added.



Monster Pub Pizza is located along Kalachucha Ave. in Garapan.

BEA CABRERA



BEA CABRERA

Monster Pizza Pub owner Shuyun “Grace” Jo said that combining Korean and local flavors makes their pizza and salad unique from others.

Jo came to Saipan 10 years ago with her husband who owns a tour company. She fell in love with the island and calls it a place of healing for her. “I like the people, weather, beautiful nature that I call it a healing place, I lived in Seoul which can be very cold and crowded. People are always in a hurry there while

here, everything is at a slow and steady pace,” she said.

“People are understanding here, you will not see people fighting over traffic or blowing their horns. My children loves the lifestyle here and all these things inspire me to be better in business and giving service,” she added.

Starting last month, Monster

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Monster Pizza Pub has 10 different kinds of fresh pizza every day.

Pizza Pub also offered a pizza buffet during lunch Monday to Friday from 11:30am to 1:30pm for only \$13 for adults and \$9 for children ages 4-10. “The turnout has been successful as we serve six kinds of chefs special pizza, chicken wings, Bolognese pasta, French fries, inclusive of iced tea.”

“We do delivery to hotels for tourists, receive last order at 9pm and order will be ready in 20 minutes. We serve beer wine, Illy coffee, and extraordinary drinks like Galaxy Lemonade, which is made of organic tea ice and mixed with lemonade,” she added.

Monster Pizza Pub is open from Monday to Sunday, 11am-10pm. For more information call (670) 233-9999 and Facebook: Monster Pizza Pub.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IKEA to pay \$46M in boy's dresser tipover death, lawyers say

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—IKEA has agreed to pay \$46 million to the parents of a 2-year-old boy who died of injuries suffered when a 70-pound (32-kilogram) recalled dresser tipped over onto him, the family's lawyers said Monday. Jozef Dudek, of Buena Park, California, died in 2017 of his injuries, and his parents sued the Swedish home furnishings company in a Philadelphia court in 2018. In the lawsuit, the Dudeks accused IKEA of knowing that its Malm dressers posed a tip-

over hazard and that they had injured or killed a number of children, but that the company had failed to warn consumers that the dressers shouldn't be used without being anchored to a wall. The dresser was recalled in 2016, according to the suit. The settlement also requires IKEA to meet with the advocacy organization, Parents Against Tip-overs, and broaden its outreach to consumers about the recall of IKEA dressers, according to the Dudek's lawyers, Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelemer Tanner Weinstock Dodig. The Dudek family will donate \$1 million from the settlement to

organizations that advocate for more rigorous stability testing for dressers, they said.

Boeing's checklist of 737 Max fixes grows with wiring issue

DALLAS (AP)—The list of items Boeing could be forced to fix before federal safety officials let the grounded 737 Max airliner fly again has grown to include a problem with electrical wiring used for the plane's controls. Separately on Monday, the financial damage to Boeing from the airplane crisis came into sharper focus as American Airlines said it has reached agreement over

compensation from the plane maker for thousands of flights it canceled because its Max jets were grounded most of the year. American did not say how much it will receive but said it will give \$30 million to employees as profit-sharing. American estimated in October that the Max grounding would cost it \$540 million in pretax income for all of 2019. Aeromexico said it too settled with Boeing but declined to release details. The airline has six Max jets. The wiring issue came to light after the Federal Aviation Administration asked Boeing to audit key systems on the Max after two crashes in

which new software and faulty sensors were implicated.

Nissan says ex-leader Ghosn still behind serious misconduct

TOKYO (AP)—Nissan said Tuesday its former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, is still behind what it sees as “serious misconduct” found in an investigation at the Japanese automaker. Ghosn skipped bail that was imposed during the Japanese criminal investigation against him and arrived last week in Lebanon. In its first public statement since Ghosn left, Nissan Motor Co. reiterated its view Ghosn that mis-

stated his compensation and diverted company assets for personal gain. “The company will continue to take appropriate legal action to hold Ghosn accountable for the harm that his misconduct has caused to Nissan,” it said. It did not give details, however. Ghosn has said he is innocent, and he is expected to push his account when he speaks to reporters Wednesday in Beirut. He has said the allegations against him were trumped up by Nissan, Japanese authorities and others who wanted to block his efforts for a fuller merger between Nissan and French alliance partner Renault SA.

Nation

Pentagon rejects Trump threat to hit Iranian cultural sites

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon on Monday distanced itself from President Donald Trump's assertions that he would bomb Iranian cultural sites despite international prohibitions on such attacks.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the U.S. will "follow the laws of armed conflict." When asked if that ruled out targeting cultural sites, Esper said pointedly, "That's the laws of armed conflict."

The split between the president and his Pentagon chief came amid heightened tensions with Tehran following a U.S. drone strike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force. Trump had twice warned that he would hit Iranian cultural sites if Tehran retaliates against the U.S.

Esper's public comments reflected the private concerns of other defense and military officials, who cited legal prohibitions on attacks on civilian, cultural and religious sites, except under certain, threatening circumstances.

Trump first raised the prospect of targeting cultural sites in a tweet on Saturday and reiterated that view to reporters the next day.

"We have targeted 52 Iranian sites (representing the 52 American hostages taken by Iran many years ago), some at a very high level & important to Iran & Iranian culture, and those tar-

gets, and Iran itself, WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD," he tweeted.

His Twitter message caught administration officials off-guard and prompted an immediate outcry from legal scholars, national security experts and Democratic lawmakers. But the president stood by his threat the following day.

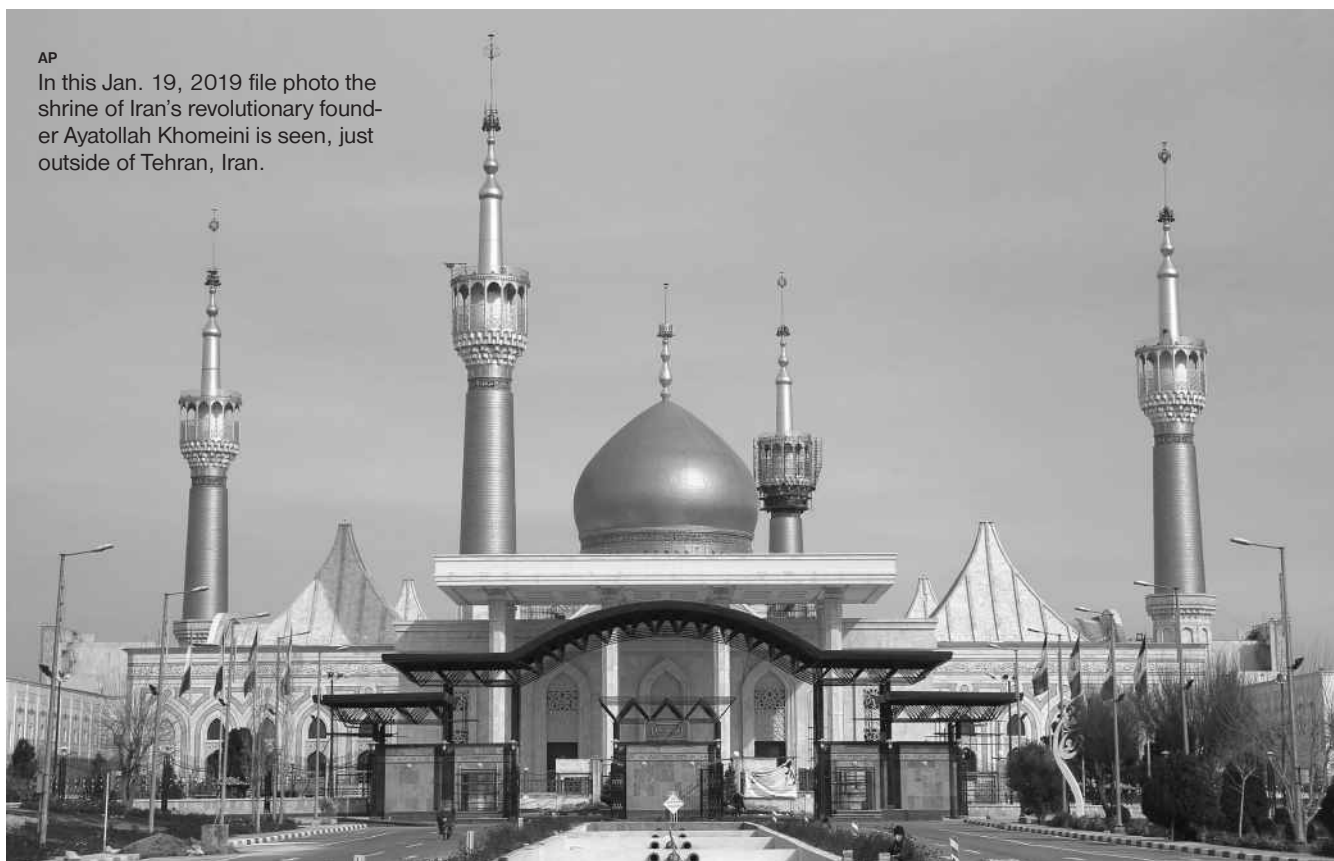
"They're allowed to kill our people. They're allowed to torture and maim our people. They're allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people," he told reporters traveling with him on Air Force One. "And we're not allowed to touch their cultural sites? It doesn't work that way."

By international law, however, it does.

Specifically, the 1954 Hague Convention says nations must "take all possible steps" to protect cultural property and shall refrain "from any act of hostility, directed against such property." It also says nations must not use cultural sites for any threatening purposes that would make such locations a military target.

The Pentagon has long had a list of potential targets both inside Iran as well as those associated with Iran throughout the Middle East. Those targets and war plans are routinely updated, including during the recent uptick in hostilities.

Officials won't discuss the list, but it is certain to include



AP
In this Jan. 19, 2019 file photo the shrine of Iran's revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini is seen, just outside of Tehran, Iran.

an array of Iranian military sites and capabilities, including missile, air defense and command and control locations.

Any targets would go through a lengthy vetting process within the military and the Pentagon to determine that they are legal, appropriate and proportionate to any Iranian action. Only after that process is complete would a list of potential sites go before the president for approval.

inside their homes, but José Quiñones, 54, had no choice. His 80-year-old mother had heart problems and was lying in bed.

Dozens of people in a neighborhood called Hope in Guanica walked around with their phones and yelled out the magnitude of the latest earthquakes as they tried to calm children who were forced to open the presents they'd received for Three Kings Day, a religious holiday, on streets and sidewalks.

"This is hell," said Albert Rodríguez, 43, whose home collapsed on one side as the smell of gas filled the air. "We haven't slept.... You can't remain calm here. Guanica is no longer a safe place."

Less than a block away, Silvestre Alicea surveyed his home, which collapsed on his prized blue 1977 Toyota Corolla as he leaped from the balcony.

Alicea had lived in New York for years until he retired to Guanica two years ago to live in the home he spent 15 years building. He doesn't have insurance.

5.8-magnitude quake strikes Puerto Rico, damaging homes

GUANICA, Puerto Rico (AP)—A 5.8 magnitude quake hit Puerto Rico before dawn Monday, unleashing small landslides, causing power outages and collapsing some homes, as well as a famed tourist attraction. It was one of the strongest quakes yet in a series that have hit the U.S. territory over the past week.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The quake was followed by a string of smaller tremors, including one measured at magnitude 5 that struck at 10:51 a.m. (1451 GMT), shaking power lines and frightening residents of southern Puerto Rico who had been waiting outside their homes due to fears the buildings were damaged and unstable.

The first quake struck at 6:32 a.m. (1032 GMT) just south of the island at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The shake collapsed a coastal rock formation that had formed a sort of rounded window, Punta Ventana, that was a popular tourist draw in



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

the southwest town of Guayanilla.

In the southern town of Guanica, Mayor Santos Seda told The Associated Press that five homes collapsed, but only one of them was inhabited. No injuries had been reported.

Another 29 homes were heavily damaged and about to collapse, he said.

Helicopters buzzed overhead and terrified residents jumped up from their folding chairs every time the earth shook, yelling at others to stay away from power lines.

Few people dared go back

ACROSS THE NATION

Unique sex-abuse suit filed against Boy Scouts in US capital

A team of lawyers filed a lawsuit Monday in federal court in Washington, D.C., seeking to establish the nation's capital as a venue for men across the U.S. to sue the Boy Scouts of America for allegedly failing to protect them from long-ago sexual abuse at the hands of scoutmasters and other leaders. The eight plaintiffs in the potentially groundbreaking lawsuit, identified as John Does 1 through 8, live in states where statute of limitations laws would prevent them from suing the BSA based on claims of sex abuse that occurred decades ago. The plaintiffs' lawyers contend that federal court in Washington is an appropriate venue for such a lawsuit because the Boy Scouts were incorporated there in 1910 and obtained a congressional charter in 1916. Along with several states -- including New York, New Jersey and California -- the District of Columbia eased its statute of limitations in 2019 to accommodate claims like those in the new lawsuit. The Boy Scouts, in an email to The Associated Press, said it cannot comment on pending litigation. It reiterated its previous apologies to "anyone who was harmed during their time in Scouting." "We believe victims, we support them, we pay for counseling by a provider of their choice and we encourage them to come forward," the BSA said.

ward," the BSA said.

Teens admit roles in killing of newborn, disposal of body

Two New Jersey teenagers face prison sentences of between 5 to 10 years for their roles in the death of their newborn baby who was killed and tossed into an outdoor trash bin. Jada McClain, 18, pleaded guilty Monday to aggravated manslaughter by pressing on the chest of her newborn son until he stopped breathing. Quaimere Mohammed, 19, pleaded guilty to disturbing or desecrating human remains. Both teens are from Neptune Township near the Jersey shore. The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office said Monday that the killing took place in March 2019 shortly after McClain, a student at Neptune High School, gave birth to a son. Police were notified on April 4 that she had recently given birth and that the child was dead. An investigation revealed that McClain had become pregnant by her boyfriend, Mohammed, a student at Asbury Park High School, in July 2018. Authorities said McClain explained to investigators that she hid the fact that she was pregnant from her parents, and gave birth in the early morning hours of March 29, 2019, in her home. After giving birth to the child, McClain pressed her hands on the boy's chest until he stopped breathing, according to the prosecutor's office.

Homeland Security will share citizenship data with Census

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Department of Homeland Security is agreeing to share citizenship information with the U.S. Census Bureau as part of President Donald Trump's order to collect data on who is a citizen following the Supreme Court's rejection of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census form. Trump's order is being challenged in federal court, but meanwhile the Department of Homeland Security two weeks ago announced the agreement in a report. It said the agency would share administrative records to help the Census Bureau determine the number of citizens and non-citizens in the U.S., as well as the number of immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Information to be shared includes personally identifiable data, the Homeland Security document says. Federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from releasing personally identifiable data, and the bureau says in its fact-sheet on privacy, "Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way." The Census Bureau has promised the data will be kept for no more than two years, and will then be destroyed, according to the agreement. The data will be used to help the Census Bureau create a model estimating the likelihood that each person in the U.S. is a citizen, non-citizen or an immigrant in the country without legal permission.

Asia

VP says Philippine president's drug campaign is a failure

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs has failed to substantially eradicate the menace and ensnare major drug lords and should be reformed to prevent further bloodshed, the country's vice president said Monday.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who leads the opposition, also called for a stop to the dreaded police practice of home inspections that have led only to the killings of petty drug suspects.

It's the latest criticism of Duterte's notorious crackdown by the vice president and is likely to deepen the political divide between the two leaders.

Presidents and vice presidents are elected separately in the Philippines, resulting in candidates from rival par-

ties like Duterte and Robredo ending up in the country's top leadership and often colliding on policies.

Robredo said only about 1% of the estimated supply of methamphetamine, a powerful banned stimulant locally known as shabu, has been seized in the last three years, since the crackdown was launched by Duterte when he took office in mid-2016.

"Very clearly, based on official data, despite the killings of Filipinos and all the money spent, the amount of shabu and drug money we've seized has not gone beyond 1% of those in circulation," Robredo said at a news conference.

"If we really want to end the scourge of illegal drugs, we need to run after the big suppliers and not just the small-time pushers," Robredo said,



AP
In this Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, photo provided by the Office of the Vice President, Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo delivers her statement in suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines.

It's the latest twist in the unprecedentedly massive crackdown Duterte launched after he took office in June 2016. He promised to end illegal drugs and corruption in six months during the campaign but failed and later acknowledged that he was overwhelmed when he found out the immensity of the problems after becoming president.

More than 6,000 mostly petty drug suspects have been killed in the crackdown after allegedly resisting arrests and more than a million others have surrendered, officials say. But human rights groups have cited a higher death toll and accused some policemen of killing unarmed suspects based on flimsy evidence and altering crime scenes to make it look like the suspects violently fought back.

At least two complaints for mass murder have been filed before the International Criminal Court over the large-scale deaths, but Duterte and the police have denied condoning extrajudicial killings under the crackdown.

Duterte has warned that his bloody campaign will continue up to the last day of his presidency in June 2022.

adding the campaign would not succeed unless it's reformed to be more strategic, better organized and closely supervised in all aspects by the president.

Her remarks were largely based on information gathered during a brief stint in a government anti-drugs committee, which Duterte asked her to help lead last year after being piqued by her constant criticisms of his bloody crackdown. Robredo surprisingly accepted the offer, but Duterte fired her after 18 days after she started seeking confidential information about the campaign.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo dismissed Robredo's statements, saying

Duterte's campaign has succeeded in closing many drug laboratories and forcing the surrender of a large number of drug suspects. Big-time drug lords have also been neutralized, Panelo said, although he failed to immediately provide a list of those key drug personalities.

"If you noticed, when she was threatening to release this report, she implied that there were some irregularities discovered, a bomb that would explode on your face. It's a dud," Panelo told reporters.

Robredo, a 54-year-old former human rights lawyer and political newcomer, has openly criticized the campaign against illegal drugs launched by Duterte, a longtime city

mayor and state prosecutor known for his extra tough approach against criminality and brash speaking style.

Robredo has said she accepted Duterte's offer last year to help oversee the crackdown despite warnings by her advisers and allies, so she may be able to save lives under the campaign.

One of her first moves was to request confidential documents from law enforcers, including a list of key drug suspects targeted under Duterte's campaign. Duterte warned Robredo about sharing confidential information about the anti-drug campaign with his foreign critics, including human rights advocates.

US strike on Iran could have consequences in North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.S. strike that killed Iran's top military commander may have had an indirect casualty: a diplomatic solution to denuclearizing North Korea.

Experts say the escalation of tensions between Washington and Tehran will diminish already fading hopes for such an outcome and inspire North Korea's decision-makers to tighten their hold on the weapons they see, perhaps correctly, as their strongest guarantee of survival.

North Korea's initial reaction to the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani has been cautious. The country's state media was silent for several days before finally on Monday issuing a brief report on the attack that didn't even mention Soleimani's name.

The Korean Central News Agency report didn't publish any direct criticism by Pyongyang toward Washington, instead simply saying that China and Russia had denounced the United States over last week's airstrike at the airport in Baghdad.

The North's negotiations with the U.S. have been at a stalemate since last February, when a summit between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump collapsed over disagreements about exchanging sanctions relief for nuclear disarmament. The North has recently pointed to that lack of progress and hinted it

may resume tests of nuclear bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

While the killing of Soleimani may give Pyongyang pause about provoking the Trump administration in such a way, the North ultimately is likely to use the strike to further legitimize its stance that it needs to bolster its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent against American aggression.

The North has often pointed to the demises of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi while justifying its nuclear development, saying they would still be alive and in power had they successfully obtained nuclear weapons and didn't surrender them to the U.S.

Soleimani's name will soon be mentioned with them too, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Dongguk University.

"North Korea would say that the 'imperialist' nature of the United States would never change, and that there is no other option for them other than to strengthen its nuclear deterrent while bracing for long-term confrontation," said Koh, an adviser to current South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

It's clear Pyongyang has been closely watching the developments between Washington and Tehran since the Trump administration in May 2018 abandoned a nuclear agreement Iran reached with world powers in 2015.

Australia to pay 'whatever it takes' to fight wildfires

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's government said Monday it was willing to pay "whatever it takes" to help communities recover from deadly wildfires that have ravaged the country.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the government was committing an extra 2 billion Australian dollars (\$1.4 billion) toward the recovery effort in addition to the tens of millions of dollars that have already been promised.

"The fires are still burning. And they'll be burning for months to come," Morrison said. "And so that's why I outlined today that this is an initial, an additional, investment of \$2 billion. If more is needed and the cost is higher, then more will be provided."

Morrison's announcement of the funds, which will go toward rebuilding towns and infrastructure destroyed by the fires, came as the death toll from the disaster rose with the discovery of a body in a re-

mote part of New South Wales. The body is believed to be that of a 71-year-old man who was last seen on New Year's Eve moving equipment on his property on the state's south coast, police said in a statement. Police found the body on Monday between the property and a car, both of which had been destroyed by fire.

Another person in southern New South Wales was reported missing, New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said.

Nationwide, at least 25 people have been killed and 2,000 homes destroyed by the blazes, which have so far scorched an area twice the size of the U.S. state of Maryland.

Rain and cooler temperatures on Monday were bringing some relief to communities battling the fires. But the rain was also making it challenging for fire crews to complete strategic burns as they tried to prepare for higher temperatures that have been forecast for later in the week.

"With the more benign weather conditions, it presents some wonderful relief for everybody, the firefighters, the emergency services personnel, but also the communities affected by these fires," Shane Fitzsimmons, commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, told reporters. "But it also presents some real challenges when it comes to implementing tactical and strategic back-burns and other techniques to try and bring these fires under control."

More than 135 fires were still burning across New South Wales, including almost 70 that were not contained. Officials have warned that the rain won't put out the largest and most dangerous blazes before conditions deteriorate again.

Victoria state Emergency Services Minister Lisa Neville said at least 200 millimeters (8 inches) of rain would need to fall over a short period of time in order to snuff out the fires—around 20 times what

has fallen across the region in the past day. And officials warned that Australia's wildfire season—which generally lasts through March—was nowhere near its end.

"No one can be complacent. We've got big fire danger coming our way toward the end of this week," Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews told reporters in Melbourne. "We are by no means out of this. And the next few days, and indeed the next few months, are going to be challenging."

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian also urged Australians not to let their guards down.

Australia's capital, Canberra, had the worst air quality of any major city in the world for much of Monday. The Department of Home Affairs, which is responsible for coordinating the country's response to disasters, told all noncritical staff to stay home because of thick smoke choking the city.

World

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. officials on Monday braced for Iran to respond to the killing of its most powerful general, noting heightened military readiness in the country and preparing for a possible “tit-for-tat” attempt on the life of an American military commander.

President Donald Trump ordered the Jan. 2 strike against Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s elite Quds Force, after the death of an American contractor in Iraq. Now, as the massive demonstrations of Iran’s public mourning period for Soleimani come to a close, officials believe the next steps by America’s longtime foe will determine the ultimate course of the latest crisis.

While officials say American intelligence isn’t clear on whether Iran’s latest military moves are designed to bolster Tehran’s defenses or prepare for an offensive strike, the U.S. is continuing to reinforce its own positions in the region, including repositioning some forces. One official said the U.S. anticipated a “major” attack of some type within the next day or two.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said no decision had been made about withdrawing troops from Iraq. Pro-Iranian factions in the Iraqi Parliament have pushed to oust American troops following Soleimani’s killing on Iraqi soil. Esper spoke to reporters after a letter from a



A mourner walk back from a funeral ceremony for Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and his comrades, who were killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone attack on Friday, passing graffiti on the wall of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

US braces for Iranian response: A ‘TIT FOR TAT’ ASSAULT?

U.S. Marine general circulated that seemed to suggest a withdrawal had been ordered in response to a vote by the Iraqi Parliament over the weekend. “There’s been no decision whatsoever to leave Iraq,” Esper said.

Soleimani’s death, which has sparked major protests,

further nuclear development and new threats of violence, has raised the prospect of a wide and unpredictable conflict in the Middle East and escalated tensions between Iran and the U.S.

The two nations have careened from one flare-up to another since Trump began

his “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran shortly after taking office. He abrogated the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed crushing economic sanctions, both steps aimed at preventing Iran from getting a

nuclear weapon and deterring the sort of regional aggression spearheaded by Soleimani.

Two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions, said targeting Soleimani was

not representative of a wholesale shift in American policy toward Iran, despite Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s comments on Sunday that the U.S. was targeting Iran’s “actual decision-makers” rather than its network of proxy allies. Trump has repeatedly contended that he is not seeking “regime change” in Iran, as has been pushed by some of his more hawkish advisers.

Still, Trump’s strike against Soleimani, a revered figure in Iran whose death sparked large displays of anger and grief, was a risky decision his Republican and Democratic predecessors opted not to take out of concern it would draw the U.S. and Iran closer to conflict.

U.S. officials are also aware that Iran could try to strike a high-level American leader in a “tit-for-tat” move, potentially a military commander.

One official said some Iranian ships have spread out, and while the intent isn’t immediately clear, they could move rapidly to attack.

The U.S. military has increased protection of its forces, particularly in Iraq. Officials said a number of the recently deployed soldiers from the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division had moved into Iraq from Kuwait in order to increase security for Americans there. The U.S. military has stopped all training of Iraqi forces to focus on force protection, officials said.

Venezuela’s would-be congress leader shrugs off accusations

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The would-be new leader of Venezuela’s congress dug in Monday against accusations that he facilitated a takeover of the country’s last democratic institution by socialist allies of President Nicolás Maduro.

Luis Parra insisted that parliamentary rules were followed when he was elected head of the National Assembly on Sunday in a session in which security forces loyal to Maduro blocked opposition leader Juan Guaidó from attending.

Parra, a previously unknown backbencher mired in accusations of bribe-taking, said the 150 lawmakers in attendance more than satisfied the quorum requirements in the 167-seat legislature. He said 81 of those present voted for him, including 30 members of the opposition, in a stunning rebuke of Guaidó, who had expected to easily win re-election.

But in rambling comments to journalists who challenged his every assertion, Parra acknowledged he didn’t know who exactly had voted for him during the chaotic session, in which a handful of socialist lawmakers stormed the dais in a rushed show of hands. Nor could he square the apparent results with the 100 lawmakers who elected Guaidó in a roll call vote held later in the day at an emergency session at a Caracas newspaper.

“We’re seeking the list,” he said, insisting the tally would be provided in the coming hours.

The rival claims to the legislature’s mantle, however bizarre, have plunged the South American nation once again into crisis, setting the stage for another battle for institutional power of the sort Venezuelans have grown used to in recent years.

While Guaidó enjoys the full support of the U.S., and even leftist governments like

Argentina and Mexico condemned the government’s actions, there’s no indication Maduro’s grip on power—especially the armed forces—is weakening. Nor do analysts expect mass protests like the ones that a year ago accompanied Guaidó’s bold challenge to Maduro to resume anytime soon.

“Without protests or control of parliament, Guaidó has little bargaining power,” said Phil Gunson, a Caracas-based analyst for the International Crisis Group.

Parra, in a press conference from the floor of the legislature, tried to project an image of independence, saying he never had been nor would ever be a Chavista—as supporters of the late leader Hugo Chávez are known. But while blasting Maduro for the oil-rich nation’s collapse, he also took repeated aim at Guaidó, saying he had put his own political ambitions ahead of Venezuelans’ urgent needs.

UN chief: Highest global tensions this century risk mistakes

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Monday that global political tensions “at their highest level this century” are escalating and “leading more and more countries to take unpredictable decisions with unpredictable consequences and a profound risk of miscalculation.”

The U.N. chief, considered by many the world’s top diplomat, said his message is simple: “Stop escalation. Exercise maximum restraint. Restart dialogue. Renew international cooperation” and avoid a new war.

Guterres did not name any countries—and refused to answer shouted questions—but his comments followed rising U.S. tensions with Iran and last Friday’s U.S. killing of top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad. His death has led Iran to announce it is abandoning all limits in the 2015 nuclear deal with key world powers, and Iraq’s parliament to call for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil.

The United States said Soleimani was plotting a series of attacks that endangered many American troops and officials across the Middle East. President Donald Trump said his aim was to prevent war—not start one—but he has promised reprisals against any Iranian retaliation.

In his “state of the world” address to global leaders at their annual U.N. General Assembly meeting in September, Guterres painted a grim picture of a deeply divided and anxious planet. His statement Monday was even more dire.

He told presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers from the U.N.’s 193 member states just over three months ago that the world is facing a climate crisis, “the alarming possibility of armed conflict in the Gulf,” spreading terrorism, rising populism and “exploding” inequality.

The secretary-general also warned of the looming risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, curren-

cy, trade, financial rules “and their own zero sum geopolitical and military strategies.” He said the risk “may not yet be large, but it is real.”

Speaking to reporters Monday, he appeared more worried, saying “the New Year has begun with our world in turmoil.”

Guterres expressed great concern at the recent rise in global tensions, stressing: “We are living in dangerous times.”

In addition to the risk of miscalculation by countries taking “unpredicted decisions,” Guterres said, “We see trade and technological conflicts that fracture world markets, undermine growth and widen inequalities.”

“Even nuclear nonproliferation can no longer be taken for granted,” he said, apparently responding to Iran’s announcement of its plans to renew nuclear activities and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un saying he’s bolstering the country’s nuclear deterrent in the face of “gangster-like” U.S. pressure.

Focus

By LISA MASCARO and DEB
RIECHMANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's confrontation with Iran is posing a gut check for Congress, brazenly testing whether the House and Senate will exert their own authority over U.S. military strategy or cede more war powers to the White House.

As tensions rise at home and abroad, Speaker Nancy Pelosi will hold House votes this week to limit Trump's ability to engage Iran militarily after the surprise U.S. airstrike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani. A Senate vote is expected to soon follow.

Yet Congress has shown time and again it is unable to exert its ability to authorize—or halt—the use of military force. With their inaction, lawmakers have begrudgingly allowed the commander in chief to all but disregard Congress.

"I think this president has pushed this to the limit with action that has a huge, escalating effect," said Scott Anderson, a former attorney in the State Department's legal office and former legal adviser for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "Maybe this will push Congress to make it a priority. ... Anything short of legislative action doesn't mean anything."

The showdown between the White House and Capitol Hill provides the latest example of how Trump's willingness to break the norms in Washington is setting new standards in governance.

Ahead of the attack that killed the Iranian general, the president did not consult with congressional leaders. In the aftermath, he refused to make public his justification for the airstrikes.

Facing an outcry, Trump scoffed that his tweets should provide adequate updates to Congress, regardless of what is required by law.

Republicans have largely supported Trump's actions, saying the president was well within his power to take out Iran's architect of proxy operations against Americans in the Middle East. The U.S. considered Soleimani a terrorist.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Monday there's plenty of time for lawmakers to learn more about the president's reasoning for the attack. He complained that Democrats "rushed to blame our own government before even knowing the facts, ... rushed to downplay Soleimani's evil while presenting our own president as the villain."

But Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Monday, "It is essential for Congress to

put a check on this president."

Jack Goldsmith, a professor at Harvard Law School, said both parties in Congress have for years gone along with an expansion of presidential war powers, especially with regard to the conflicts in the Middle East.

"In short, our country has—through presidential aggrandizement accompanied by congressional authorization, delegation, and acquiescence—given one person, the president, a sprawling military and enormous discretion to use it in ways that can easily lead to a massive war," Goldsmith said in an essay in *Lawfare*, an online newsletter he co-founded. "That is our system: One person decides."

Past presidents at least signaled a nod to the legislative branch, which has the sole power under the Constitution to declare war, knowing they would need to ask Congress to pay for military operations. It's one way the founders sought to keep the executive in check.

But Congress has allowed its role to erode since the passage of Authorization for Use of Military Force in 2001 to fight terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks, and passage of another AUMF for the invasion of Iraq in 2002.

The fallout from those votes has deeply divided Congress and the nation, with many lawmakers, particularly Democrats, now saying they were mistakes. Yet lawmakers have been paralyzed on the question of whether to repeal or change those authorities.

Only after U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed last summer in a gruesome murder at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Turkey did Congress muster the resolve to slap restrictions on U.S. involvement with the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

It was a rare exertion of authority from Congress, the first since the passage of the War Powers Act of 1973. And Trump promptly vetoed it.

"There's no question the president has gotten stronger over time, the Congress less strong," said Wendy Sherman, a former undersecretary of state in the Obama administration and chief negotiator of the Iran nuclear deal.

"This is a president who we know makes decisions by impulse and without any deliberative process," said Sherman, who now directs the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School. "Ceding all this power to an impulsive president ... puts our national security at risk."

Pelosi announced the House will vote this week on a resolution from Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., a former CIA and

Defense Department official, that would require an end to the action against Iran unless Congress votes to authorize it.

Similar legislation passed the House last year but failed in the Senate. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is pushing it again this year and plans to force a vote that could come as soon as next week.

"I think this president doesn't care about Congress," Kaine told *The Associated Press*. "But the president is deeply concerned and to the point of insecurity about his own personal popularity. And I think a vote by Congress on a matter like this is ultimately a demonstration—well, what does the American public think? Should we be in another war in the Middle East?"

On Monday, Schumer and Sen. Robert Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called on Trump to declassify "in full" his notification to Congress over the weekend justifying the strikes.

Under the War Powers Act, the White House has 48 hours to notify Congress of such actions. Pelosi said it was "highly unusual" for the information to be entirely classified and is demanding a full briefing for Congress.

Debates have raged on and off Capitol Hill over whether the White House can continue to rely on nearly 20-year old authorizations for its actions abroad.

At the time of their passage, Congress resisted then-President George W. Bush's effort to secure an even broader authorization, clipping language that would have allowed for actions to deter future acts of terrorism against the U.S., according to a 2019 report from the Congressional Research Service.

"Because Congress did not accept this broader authorization language, it can be argued that Congress deliberately chose to limit presidential authority," the report said, adding that the debate about the authorities since then "calls for legislative clarification of such scope."

Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn on Monday defended Trump, comparing the killing of the Iranian general to Obama's decision to target Osama bin Laden, even though that raid was more directly tied to the post-2001 war authorizations.

"The president not only has the authority under the Constitution, but the responsibility to defend the nation," Cornyn said. He also said Soleimani's death was not an assassination, as some have suggested.

"This was the president of the United States exercising his lawful authorities," he said.

AP
President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump exit Air Force One, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., following a trip to his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Trump tests Congress' war powers with strike against Iran

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

Christmas over, time for a tulip planting party

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Now that Christmas is over, it's time to put our thoughts on tulips. At least this is when many in the South do it. Friends and relatives in the North hopefully got theirs in sometime in October before the ground froze.

The Garden Guy will freely admit that a mass of tulips in bloom is about as beautiful a sight as there is in the world of gardening. Even if we in zones 7-9 have to think of the tulip as an annual there is nothing that says spring like a tulip.

Last spring Callaway Resort & Gardens had tulip displays that kept me busy with the camera. It seemed every color I love was there exhibited in massed tulip displays. To me that was a lesson all lovers of tulips should notice. Mass planting is the way to mesmerize all who look at our

landscape. A handful will simply not get the job done.

My son James the color design guru with a large firm in Columbus, Ga., buys and plants hundreds. And he will certainly tell you the ground work is just that, as soil preparation is certainly the key to the green thumb. Even though this soil might be considered good by many standards, it is the addition of peat and organic soil amendments that creates the fertility and drainage needed by cool season flowers like tulips. You will want to do the same.

The dazzling display at Callaway Gardens took thoughtful planning as the tulip partners were various pansies and violas. One of the most striking displays however had red tulips ever so picturesquely with Kaleidoscope abelias showing out in gold variegation.

There is always a tendency

to line up tulips like toy soldiers in formal straight lines. This can certainly work and is ever so dramatic in large beds. Never underestimate the power of informal drifts like Callaway's displays. This can actually make a small tulip display seem larger.

A lot of gardeners are familiar in working with color schemes when it comes to other flowers but it is just as easy and just as showy to accomplish these goals within tulips themselves and of course with the companion plants. For instance, red tulips, yellow tulips and violet pansies created a perfect triadic harmony. At Callaway, they not only paired opposite colors of tulips for a complementary color scheme but worked in unique variegation patterns of blooms for a stunning look.

Planting tulips has a couple more challenging aspects. The first is chilling. I am old school

and my son is now the professional. I was trained to put those tulips in the refrigerator for planting in the fall or having a tulip planting Christmas party in the Lower South. The son on the other hand has a supplier guaranteeing chilling and he has never had an

issue. So, as a Dad, I am always holding my breath, so to speak, watching and waiting for his tulips as he simply grins at the old timer. The old timer's word of caution: know your source.

The second question arising is always, how deep do I plant.

This question is more likely to come from those who don't want to do the good soil preparation. Digging three inches in cement-like soil just won't do. Work that organic in so it will be easy planting 7 to 8 inches deep. Do this and you too will have the green thumb.

Bobby Flay's Eggplant Bolognese is meatless but hearty

By CHRIS ROSS
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Celebrity chef Bobby Flay believes his new cookbook, "Bobby at Home," is his most important book to date. That's because it's a collection of his favorite recipes, the ones he is likely to serve family and friends when he's at home.

As well as being a chef and restaurateur, Flay has been host or star of 14 TV shows on the Food Network and Cooking Channel, among them "Boy Meets Grill," "Throwdown With Bobby Flay" and "Beat Bobby Flay."

He says that when people ask him what he does to relax when he's not working, they often seem surprised to learn that what he does is cook. But it's a very different style than when he's working in one of his restaurants or competing on TV.

"At home, it's a pace that's steady but focused, and where the food is always abundant and served family-style," he writes in the book's introduction.

Flay says this meatless main dish is hearty enough to please meat lovers as well as vegetarians. His pasta of choice for this is tortiglioni (similar to rigatoni but larger and with deeper, spiral grooves), but he says rigatoni and fettuccine would also work well.

EGGPLANT BOLOGNESE

Serves 4 to 6

6 baby eggplants, or 1 large globe eggplant

½ cup olive oil

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 large Spanish onion, finely diced

2 medium carrots, finely diced

1 small celery stalk, finely diced

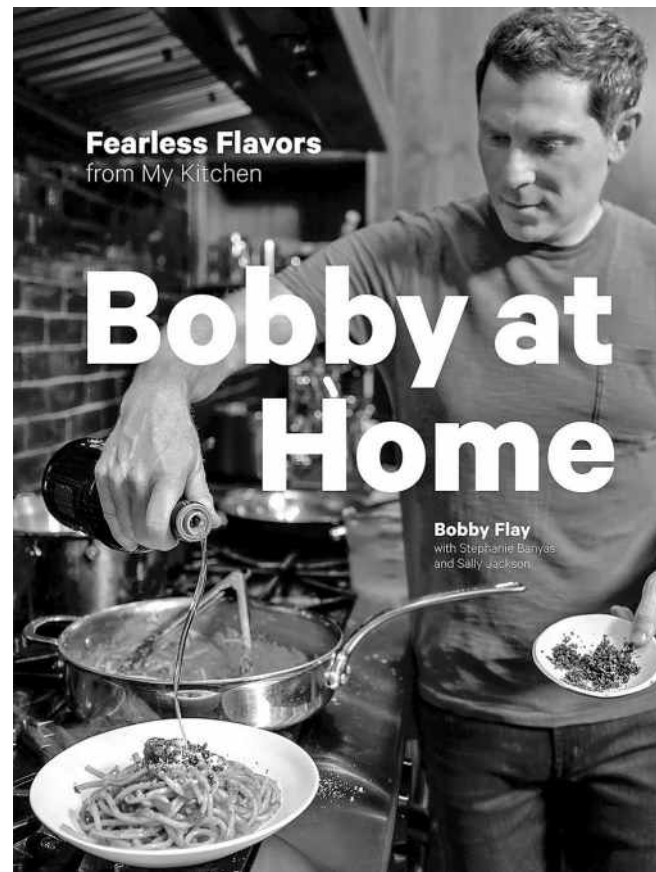
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped to a paste with the side of a chef's knife and 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon Calabrian chile flakes, depending on how spicy you like it

1 cup dry red wine

2 (28-ounce) cans plum tomatoes, with their juices

1 teaspoon sugar



Bobby Flay's "Bobby at Home."

CLARKSON POTTER/AMAZON/TNS

1/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh oregano

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Peel half the skin from the eggplants in 1-inch sections (so the eggplant looks striped). Slice each eggplant crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick rounds and cut each round into 1/2-inch dice.

Heat 3 tablespoons of the oil in a large sauté pan over high heat until it begins to shimmer. Add half the eggplant, season with salt and pepper, and cook, stirring continuously, until the eggplant takes on some color and becomes soft, about 5 minutes. Spread the eggplant on a baking sheet in an even layer. Add 3 tablespoons of the oil to the pan and repeat with the remaining eggplant.

Transfer the eggplant to the oven and bake until very soft, turning once, about 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool.

Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a Dutch oven over high heat. Add the onion, carrots and celery and cook, stirring often, until soft, about

5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Add the chile flakes and cook for 30 seconds more.

Stir in the wine and bring to a boil. Cook until the liquid has completely reduced, about 5 minutes. Add the tomatoes with their juices and the sugar and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and cook until the tomatoes begin to soften and break down, about 15 minutes. Using a potato masher, coarsely mash the tomatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until the sauce has thickened, about 20 minutes more.

Fold the eggplant, basil and oregano into the sauce. Season with salt and pepper. Use immediately, or let the bolognese cool to room temperature, transfer to an airtight container, and store in the refrigerator for up to 3 days or in the freezer for up to 1 month. Serve with tortiglioni (or your favorite pasta).

Recipe courtesy of "Bobby at Home" by Bobby Flay, Stephanie Banyas and Sally Jackson. Published by Clarkson Potter, an imprint of Penguin Random House.



These red tulips at Callaway Resort & Gardens dazzle in front of Kaleidoscope abelia. TNS

TNS

Life & Style

Ricky Gervais mocks Hollywood with explicit jokes at Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Ricky Gervais kicked off the Golden Globes by telling the audience his fifth time hosting would be his last, then proceeded to deliver an expletive-laced skewering of Hollywood's elites.

True to his reputation, Gervais opened the show on Sunday with a mix of evisceration and exasperation, pretending to confuse Joe Pesci for Baby Yoda, calling the Hollywood Foreign Press Association racist and declaring Netflix's takeover of Hollywood.

The acerbic comedic actor was bleeped multiple times, once for referring to a body part of Dame Judi Dench, and then when he advised the night's winners to stick to thanking their agents and their Gods, not lecturing the general public.

"Most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg, so if you win, come up, accept your award, thank your agent and your



This image released by NBC shows host Ricky Gervais speaking at the 77th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

God and (expletive) off," he said, referring to the teen climate change activist.

Gervais said the audience full of powerful TV and movie executives were all "terrified"

of journalist Ronan Farrow, who won a Pulitzer for his reporting on disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, who goes on trial in New York City on Monday

for sexual assault. Gervais told the crowd about Farrow: "He's coming for you."

After another Weinstein joke that earned a sharp response toward the end of the broadcast,

he snapped back at the crowd, "I didn't do it. You did it."

He made fun of Felicity Huffman for her prison sentence in a college exam cheating scandal, saying she made

the license plate on his limo.

When some groaned about his joke about the former financier Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself in jail after being arrested for allegedly sex trafficking girls, he responded: "Shut up. I know he's your friend."

He also joked about the age of Leonardo DiCaprio's dates by saying even Prince Andrew, a former friend of Epstein who has denied he was involved in Epstein's alleged crimes, wouldn't approve.

"Even Prince Andrew is like, 'C'mon, Leo. Mate, you're nearly 50,'" said Gervais.

Few in the audience should have been surprised by Gervais' tone: He's taken delight in dicing up the Hollywood elite with his jokes with his previous hosting stints.

Gervais said multiple times during the evening that he'd be giving up his hosting duties, but HFPA President Lorenzo Soria wanted an assurance from the foul-mouthed Gervais when Soria stepped on stage after the bleeped monologue: "Ricky, you keep saying this is your last year hosting. For God's sake, please put it in writing."

Off-camera at the Golden Globes is a sight to behold

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Beyond who wins and loses at the Golden Globes, how stars occupy themselves during the three-hour-plus ceremony in a packed ballroom is its own scene. Here's a glimpse at what happened off-camera during Sunday's awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel.

TOUCHING UP

Renee Zellweger served as her own touch-up artist in the ladies' room inside the International Ballroom. Before she won best actress in a motion picture drama for portraying Judy Garland, Zellweger applied lipstick, used a mister on her face, and blotted it with tissue. Professionals were on hand to help with makeup and hair, but Zellweger simply chatted them up as she perused the available products. Bumping into another woman, Zellweger told her, "I'm sorry, dear. Have fun tonight." She obliged restroom goers who asked for selfies and shared a hug with Gugu Mbatha-Raw of "The Morning Show" before exiting into the ballroom.

GOING VEGAN

The Golden Globes went vegan for the first time this year during dinner. Early arrivals

supped on chilled golden beet soup before an entree of king oyster mushroom "scallops" with mushroom risotto, brussels sprouts and carrots. Dessert was a vegan opera dome of chocolate accented by praline crumble and caramelized hazelnuts. The majority of the audience settled into the ballroom long after the meal was whisked away 30 minutes before showtime, and even those who ate it found themselves hungry. Waiters bearing trays of finger sandwiches swarmed the tables as the show began. A worker said that given the new menu this year, alcohol and a chocolate bar were vying for most popular in a bar area off the ballroom.

LEFT WAITING

Beyoncé and Jay-Z arrived about 45 minutes into the show and were left standing while Ellen DeGeneres received the Carol Burnett award. Once the room darkened to show a clip package highlighting DeGeneres' career, they were escorted to their seats in the pit area near the stage. After DeGeneres finished on stage, Jay-Z poured Champagne for the table while Portia de Rossi and Beyoncé chatted animatedly. Alex Rodriguez broke with protocol and instead of

continuing to wait for an extended pause in the show to retake his seat, Jennifer Lopez's fiancé strode to his table and sat down next to Isla Fisher and Sacha Baron Cohen.

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

Twelve-year-old "Jojo Rabbit" star Roman Griffin Davis appeared to be having the time of his life, hugging Elton John and posing with the rock musician alongside his co-star, 19-year-old Thomasin McKenzie. Davis also hugged James Bond actor Daniel Craig, who slapped his back. Brad Pitt and Quentin Tarantino, both winners for "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," smiled and kidded with 10-year-old Julia Butters from the movie.

CHATTING IT UP

During commercial breaks, Margot Robbie walked up to Nicole Kidman's table and the Aussies chatted warmly, while Jennifer Aniston appeared to hold back tears while catching up with Ellen DeGeneres, her wife Portia de Rossi and Charlize Theron. The four women posed for a photo.

MAKING THEIR WAY

Leonardo DiCaprio made a low-key entrance, walking



Lucy Boynton arrives at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

PHOTO BY JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP

into the ballroom on his own and finding his way to his seat. Helen Mirren carried the skirt of her gown in one hand and a glass of Champagne in the other as she entered. Taylor Swift stopped to pose for a selfie before taking her seat

with minutes to spare. Keith Urban carried wife Nicole Kidman's gold clutch and she grabbed his free hand as they snaked their way into the room. Charlize Theron carried a martini glass with two large olives speared by a toothpick

to her seat. Jennifer Aniston needed two helpers to reach her table. One guided her by hand in front while the other brought up the rear holding the skirt of the actress' strapless black gown.

LADIES' ROOM

The women's restroom line was a see-and-be-seen spot, with actresses like Sienna Miller, Kaitlyn Dever, a shoeless Natasha Lyonne, Rose Leslie and Jodi Comer politely waiting their turn. When Comer was washing her hands, a director came up to praise her and remind her to enjoy this time in her life. Comer responded, "I'm a very lucky girl. The fun is relentless."

HEADING OUT

On the way out after the show, Al Pacino had his arm around Tom Hanks' waist, escorting him and his family. When someone went to shake Hanks' hand, he politely said, "I have a cold, so shake my elbow." Margot Robbie's husband Tom Ackerley patted her bottom as they walked up the stairs with Kit Harrington and wife Rose Leslie just behind them. When Scarlett Johansson's long red train got tangled up, fiancé Colin Jost swooped it up and said, "Can I help you?"

Alex Trebek to Rep. John Lewis: Let's survive cancer in 2020

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alex Trebek has a message of support for Congressman John Lewis as both fight pancreatic cancer.

"We're starting a new year, and let's see if we can't both complete the year as pancreatic cancer survivors," Trebek said when asked what he would tell Lewis. He noted they're the same age, 79.

The Georgia Democrat and veteran civil rights leader announced his diagnosis of advanced cancer in late December. In his announcement, Lewis made clear that he has no plans to step aside and said, "I have a fighting chance."

Trebek made his illness public last March and has shared his progress and setbacks.

The "Jeopardy!" host struck a resolute but realistic tone in discussing the disease, including the toll it took during last month's taping of a prime-time special, "Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time," with top contestants Ken Jennings, Brad Rutter and James Holzhauer. The contest begins airing Tuesday on ABC.

Trebek recalled mentioning to a series producer that he was "struggling a bit" on stage, but was assured that nobody noticed.

"I said, 'Well, I noticed,'" said the typically precise host, who has been part of "Jeopardy!" since 1984.

Trebek has had good days and bad while undergoing treatment, but his on-camera performance doesn't fal-

ter, said Jennings, who first competed on the show 15 years ago.

"The chemo is rough, but he can always just turn it on," Jennings said. "The music came on, the lights came on,

he would just stride out there and nail that show like nobody else. It was exciting to see him doing so well and taking that diagnosis so bravely. To me, he's the last of that kind of old-school broadcasters, and

it's such a pleasure to watch."

Rutter, who first played on "Jeopardy!" nearly 20 years ago, said word of Trebek's illness hit him "like a ton of bricks."

He occasionally drops into

the Los Angeles-area studio to watch tapings and marvels at the host's perseverance.

"Every time I go back, he's better than he was last time. Even with cancer, he's still held up to that standard, which is just absolutely amazing," Rutter said.

Such praise and attention can make Trebek uncomfortable.

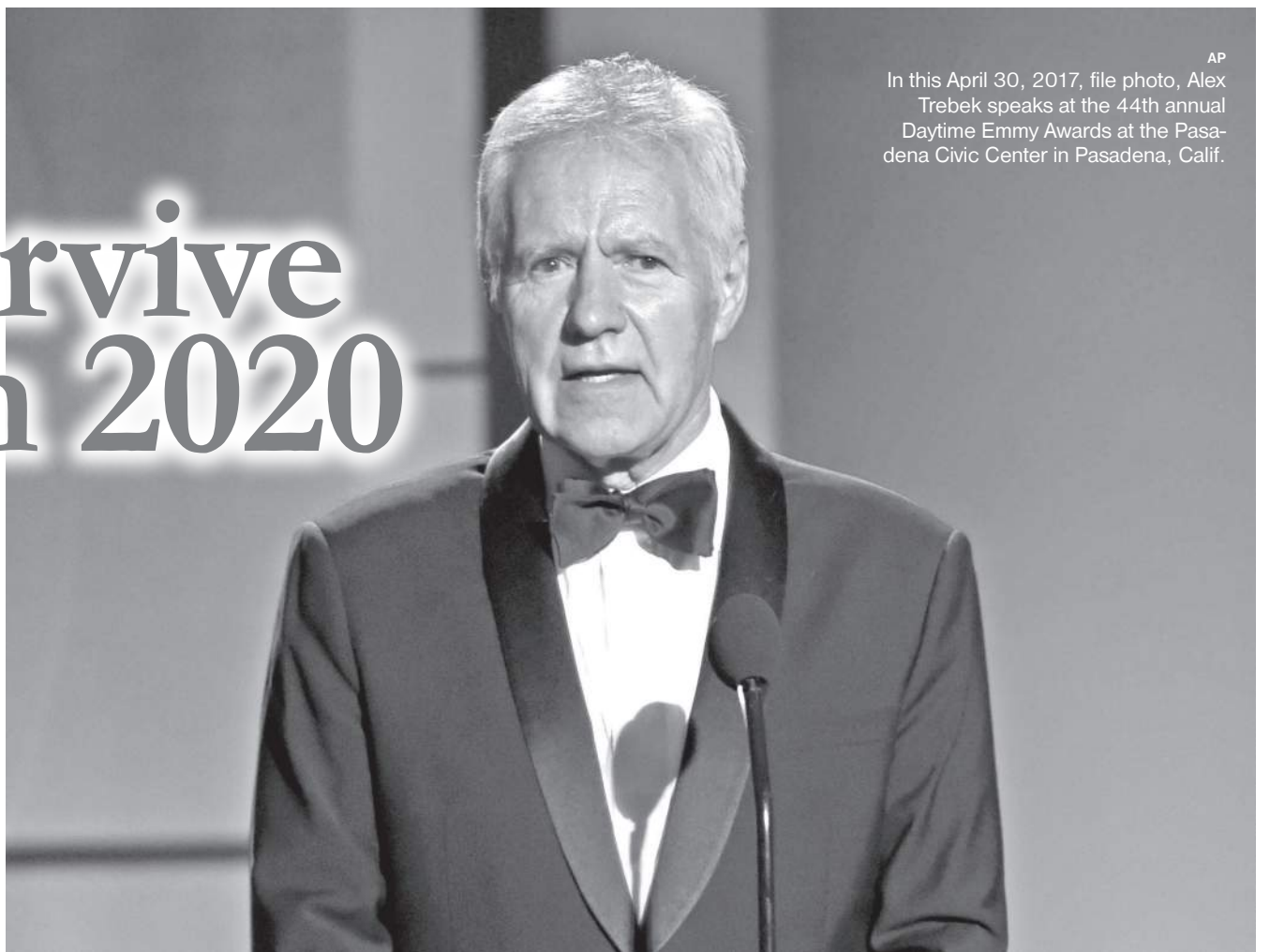
"I don't want to get too mushy. I got mushy when young Dhruv (contestant Dhruv Gaur) wrote his final 'Jeopardy!' response, 'We love you Alex! That caught me by surprise, brought me to the edge of tears,'" he said of the moment that aired during November's Tournament of Champions.

"It's humbling to realize there are so many people out there who care enough about you to want to pray for you every day, who want to send you their best wishes," he said. But Trebek said he never loses sight of the show's real attraction.

"I tell people all the time, 'Hey, folks, the show's not about me, it's about the material and the contestants. Those are the two main items. And if they shine, if the material plays well, if the contestants do well, people will enjoy the show. If they enjoy the show, probably some of that enjoyment will rub off on their views of me, and they'll like me too,'" he said, modestly.

But he expressed confidence that it will thrive with someone new.

"No matter who's hosting it, 'Jeopardy!' will go on. It's a quality program and it's put together by very bright people. And when I move on, that doesn't matter," he said. "It's the best kind of reality television, so it will endure."



AP
In this April 30, 2017, file photo, Alex Trebek speaks at the 44th annual Daytime Emmy Awards at the Pasadena Civic Center in Pasadena, Calif.

Acclaimed Conceptual artist John Baldessari dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Baldessari, who pioneered a new genre of art in the 1970s and in the process helped elevate Los Angeles' status in the art world from that of backwater berg to a center of the Conceptual movement, has died at age 88.

Baldessari died Thursday at his home in Los Angeles, the artist's representatives at New York's Marian Goodman Gallery confirmed Monday.

"It is with immense sad-

ness that I write to let you know of the death of the intelligent, loving and incomparable John Baldessari," Goodman said in a statement. "The loss to his family, his fellow artists, his studio staff, friends and devoted former students is beyond measure."

A giant in the world of art both literally and figuratively—he stood 6-feet-7-inches tall—the bearded, shaggy-haired Baldessari produced thousands of works, many of which have been exhibited all over the

world and are in the collections of major museums from Los Angeles to New York.

He also influenced dozens of other artists, both with his work and as a teacher at the prestigious California Institute of the Arts and the University of California, Los Angeles.

"His legendary class in Post-Studio Art bestowed on those of us with enough brains to notice a feeling of unbelievable luck of being in exactly the right place at the right

time for the new freedoms in art," fellow artist David Salle wrote in the 2013 introduction to a lengthy interview he conducted with Baldessari, his CalArts professor in the early 1970s.

Student met teacher at a time not long after Baldessari, having grown frustrated with his own abstract expressionist paintings, loaded them into 10 boxes, took them to a San Diego funeral home and burned them.

Bored with an art movement he believed had grown old and stale, Baldessari set out to create something new, creating multimedia works that among other things merged photographs with painting, sometimes included pieces of recognizable objects or body parts but in unimaginable ways and often contained perfectly formed block letters placed as captions on the paintings.

It was a style that prompted Los Angeles Times arts critic Christopher Knight to declare Baldessari "arguably America's most influential Conceptual artist."

Over the course of his career, which continued into his 80s, Baldessari worked in such forms as prints, sculpture, text-based art, paintings and photographs, often mixing two or more of them together.

Some of his most well known works included "God

Nose," which depicted a nose in the sky with those two words under it; "The Intersection Series: Person and Dog/High Rise Building," a mixture of photography and acrylic that included a dog, a building, a car and other images; and "Double Bill ... And Matisse," which combined inkjet print on canvas with acrylic and oil paint to display a pair of walking legs and the words, "Just Matisse."

Those works and others often struck viewers as both brilliantly constructed and at the same time whimsical, although Baldessari insisted he was never trying to be funny. Instead he compared himself to a mystery writer, providing clues to the reader, or in this case the viewer, and letting them figure it out.

"I go back and forth between wanting to be abundantly simple and maddeningly complex," he told Salle during that 2013 interview. "I always compare what I do to the work of a mystery writer—like, you don't want to know the end of the book right away."

Although he may not have deliberately intended his work to be humorous, Salle told The Associated Press on Monday, humor, irony and humanity were so imbued in Baldessari's personality that they became "almost like the delivery system of his work."



AP

Baldessari died Thursday at his home in Los Angeles, the artist's representatives at New York's Marian Goodman Gallery, confirmed Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Weinstein charged with sex crimes in LA on eve of NY trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors charged Harvey Weinstein on Monday with sexually assaulting two women on successive nights during Oscars week in 2013, bringing the new case against the disgraced Hollywood mogul on the eve of jury selection for his New York trial.

The case, brought by a task force set up by the Los Angeles County district attorney to investigate sex-crime allegations against entertainment figures, now puts Weinstein in deep legal peril on both coasts, where he built a career as the one of the most powerful—and feared—figures in show business before a barrage of accusations from more than 75 women led to his downfall and ignited the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein, 67, was charged with raping a woman at a

Los Angeles hotel on Feb. 18, 2013, after pushing his way inside her room, then sexually assaulting a woman in a Beverly Hills hotel suite the next night. He could get up to 28 years in prison on charges of forcible rape, forcible oral copulation, sexual penetration by use of force and sexual battery.

“We see you, we hear you and we believe you,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in announcing the charges, addressing herself to the studio boss’s accusers.

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said the charges open the “next chapter” for a man “who has gotten away with too much for too long,” while Beverly Hills Chief Sandra Spagnoli called the cases “horrendous crimes perpetrated by a sexual predator.”

Lawyers for Weinstein had no immediate comment on



AP
Harvey Weinstein arrives at federal court, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, in New York. The disgraced movie mogul faces allegations of rape and sexual assault. Jury selection begins this week.

Weinstein is expected to appear in court in California after his trial in New York is finished, Lacey said. She said prosecutors will recommend \$5 million bail.

The district attorney said the timing of the Los Angeles charges was unrelated to the New York trial, explaining that the filing and the announcement came on the first business day on which all the necessary people could be gathered.

Neither woman has stepped forward publicly. But one is expected to testify in the New York case as part of an effort by prosecutors to portray Weinstein as a sexual predator with a habit of forcing himself on young actresses and women trying to break into Hollywood.

The alleged attacks in Los Angeles County came days before the Hollywood producer was photographed on the Oscars red carpet with his fashion designer wife, Georgina Chapman, who was pregnant at the time.

At the 2013 Academy Awards, Weinstein had several major contenders, including “Silver Linings Playbook,” “Django Unchained” and “The Master.” His movies took home an armful of Oscars, including Jennifer Lawrence’s first Academy Award and trophies for director Quentin Tarantino and actor Christoph Waltz.

Ben Miles to narrate audio books for ‘Wolf Hall’ trilogy

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans of “The Crown” will likely recognize the audio book narrator for another popular saga about British royalty—Hilary Mantel’s “Wolf Hall” trilogy.

Ben Miles, who played Peter Townsend in “The Crown,” will read audio editions for “Wolf Hall,” “Bring Up the Bodies” and the upcoming “The Mirror and the Light.” Personally chosen by Mantel, Miles also has long experience with a central character in the series, Thomas Cromwell, the ill-fated chief minister to King Henry VIII. Miles has played Cromwell in the Royal Shakespeare Company adaptation of “Wolf Hall” and “Bring Up

the Bodies.”

“Ben understands the main character from the inside,” Mantel said in a statement Monday issued by Macmillan Audio. “His insights from the rehearsal room helped shape the story. He is familiar with how all the characters grow, from first page to last. His voice is as close as can be to the voice that’s in my head as I write.”

“The Mirror and the Light,” which comes out March 10 in print, audio and digital editions, is among the year’s most anticipated new books. “Wolf Hall” and “Bring Up the Bodies” have sold more than 5 million copies and brought the author two Booker Prizes.

the new charges, though he has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Jury selection is set to begin Tuesday in the New York case, in which Weinstein is charged with raping a woman in a New York City hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing a sex act on another woman in 2006. He has said any sexual activity was consensual. If convicted of the most serious charges, predatory sexual assault, he faces a mandatory life sentence.

“The walls of justice are closing in on Harvey Weinstein. He is now being prosecuted both in New York and Los Angeles,” celebrity attorney Gloria Allred exulted in a statement. Allred represents one of the alleged victims in the New York case as well as actress Annabella Sciorra, who is scheduled to testify against Weinstein in New York.

She added: “Women are no longer willing to suffer in silence and are willing to testify

under oath in a court of law.”

The charges announced Monday in Los Angeles took more than two years to file because the women were reluctant to provide all the information necessary, according to Lacey. The alleged attacks follow a pattern similar to the offenses described in the New York case, dozens of lawsuits and women’s accounts to media outlets.

The first accuser is an Italian actress, according to her attorney, David Ring. The woman, who asked that her name not be used, said in court documents that Weinstein arrived uninvited at her hotel on the night in question, forced her to perform oral sex on him and raped her, then threatened her life if she disclosed the attack, according to court documents.

Ring said in a statement Monday that his client “values her privacy, but will do what is necessary to obtain justice for what Weinstein did to her in 2013.”

The second woman said she

had agreed to meet Weinstein for a business meeting at his Beverly Hills hotel and was unwittingly led into the bathroom of his suite, where a naked Weinstein prevented her from leaving, took down her dress and masturbated as he held her in place by her breast, court papers said.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault, unless they agree to be named.

The task force is still investigating sex-crime allegations against Weinstein from three women, the district attorney said. Prosecutors said they declined to bring charges involving three other women because the cases were beyond the statute of limitations.

Lacey, along with the two police chiefs, urged other victims to come forward. “We need the voices of all victims to help us remove sexual predators from our community and protect others from these violent crimes,” she said.

Sister gets more of man’s time than his wife and kids

DEAR ABBY: I don’t know how to handle this. My husband of 29 years spends more time with his sister and her family than he does with me and our children. If I say anything about it, he jumps all over me, defending her. He says she doesn’t have anyone to help her. But Abby, she has two grown sons and a husband she recently decided to divorce.

I think his relationship with his sister is weird, and other people have said they think so, too. One person even called it creepy. When I told my husband I thought it was a weird relationship, he yelled at me. I can no longer talk about his sister with him; it’s off limits. Please help.

ONLY THE WIFE

DEAR ONLY THE WIFE: Has your husband always been close to this sister? It may be the reason he is spending time with her. I’m sure she wouldn’t be divorcing her husband if the marriage had been a bed of roses, and she may need private time with her brother to help her detoxify.

That said, that he spends more time with his sister than with you and the children is unusual. It makes me wonder about the state of your own marriage. If there is stress and tension the two of you can’t resolve together, you may need to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist.

DEAR ABBY: Our 47-year-old son remarried two years

ago. We have a 15-year-old grandson from his previous marriage who lives with his mom and who visits his dad every other weekend. We are not close with our new in-laws, who live out of state.

We recently found out that they have purchased a second home very close to our son. The problem is, the home is located within a nudist colony and, therefore, we assume they are in fact nudists. Should this be a problem for us (we are both 70), or should we not be concerned?

WONDERING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WONDERING: I don’t think there is anything to be worried about. If you are concerned that your grandson will “see” something shocking, please know that he can find whatever he is curious about on his computer or cellphone. However, if you are worried that either of you will be forced to view or participate in nude activities when you visit your son, all you have to say is, “I think we’ll stay at a nearby hotel, thank you.”

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended a wedding and was videotaped while I was dancing. I was shown the tape later at a family gathering. I’m not a great dancer, and I looked silly, so I asked that the video be deleted. Instead, it was passed around and everyone laughed and made fun of me. It was embarrassing and hurtful.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



My husband says I’m overreacting. Am I? I said nothing and don’t intend to, but I can’t get it out of my mind.

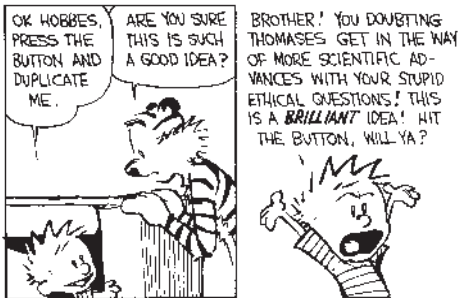
DANCING FOOL IN OHIO

DEAR DANCING FOOL: Your feelings are your feelings. Nobody wants to be made fun of. But you have two choices: The first is to continue to stew about it. The second is to join in the laughter, admit you don’t dance like a gazelle—few people do—and let it go. If you downplay it, it will go away.

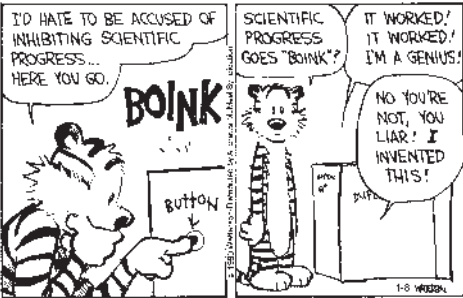
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

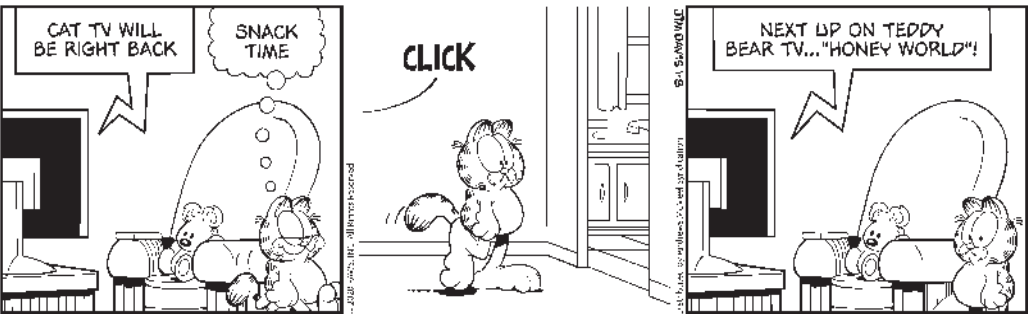


By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Expert

4 Irene of "Fame"

8 Roman censor

12 Rule, for short

13 Grade sch.

14 Saintry ring

15 Com serving

16 Mentor, of a sort

18 Fold

20 Snooze

21 Cribs

24 Nepal's neighbor

28 Resort in Lombardy

32 — the Great (kid-lit detective)

33 Blackbird

34 Prophets

36 Cote cry

37 Soother

39 Barkeep's cry

41 Brown-stone feature

43 Source

44 Melancholy

46 "Hog-wash!"

50 Supreme Court

55 "— Town"

56 Crunchy cookie

57 Ovid's 53

58 Poetic tribute

59 Gush

60 Cash advance

61 Family

4 Boston team

5 "The Greatest"

6 Game official

7 "So be it"

8 "Minute Waltz"

9 Motorist's org.

10 Pampering, for short

11 La-la lead-in

17 Mouse chaser

19 Lincoln nick-name

22 Yuletide tune

23 Daub

25 Rum cake

26 List-ending abbr.

27 Blue shade

28 "CSI" settings

29 Body sci.

30 Narc's measure

31 Roughly

35 Visits briefly

38 Kremlin setting

40 Dol.

42 Crony

45 Farmer's place

47 Boxer's punch

48 German car name

49 Wee songbird

50 —

51 Dadaist Jean

52 Pint-sized

53 Carnival city

54 Sportage maker

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cynthia Erivo, 33; Gaby Hoffmann, 38; Sarah Polley, 41; Shirley Bassey, 83.

Happy Birthday: You'll have plenty going for you, and if you keep your emotions out of your decision-making process, everything will move along as planned. Stay focused on your deadlines, and be persistent about the way you want to see things unfold. Run the show, and you'll gain respect and the help and support you need to get what you want. Your numbers are 8, 17, 20, 23, 34, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Broaden your scope, add variety to your life and consider how best to make your money work for you. A diligent approach to how you run your personal affairs will help set the stage for a stable and brighter future. Romance is featured. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have plenty of ideas to work with, but if you spread yourself too thin and try to take on too much, you will fall short. Put energy where it will bring the most in return, and concentrate on detail and precision. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Lay down some ground rules when it comes to partnerships. Strive for equality, truth and a shared target. A personal pick-me-up will improve your emotional state of mind. Make plans with someone you love, and share your intentions. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be afraid to do things your way. It's OK to be different and to try something you've never done. Use your ingenuity, creative imagination and intuition to guide you forward. A partnership looks promising. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make necessary adjustments. Taking a minimalist approach to life, how you spend your money and how much you take on will help you avoid getting trapped in a pricey scheme someone is trying to push on you. Invest in you. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to let someone anger you. If something doesn't feel right, make adjustments and move on to something that is a better fit for you. Expand your interests, friendships and knowledge. A change will do you a world of good. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Personal improvement, a change of plans or doing something with someone you love to spend time with will spark your imagination and push you in a direction that is conducive to putting an end to old habits. Walk away from manipulative people. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a look around you, and make adjustments to the situations that are no longer to your advantage. Change your direction, update your way of thinking and consider where you should be mentally, physically and emotionally to reach your goal. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider who is on your side and who isn't. You will have to be careful who you share information with and how you go about making personal changes. Don't let anger step in and take over. Physical activity will ease stress. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Dive into the deep end. When it comes to making progress, fear nothing. Show everyone what you are capable of doing, and spread your enthusiasm to those who can help you reach your goal. Embrace change, and strive for personal perfection. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let what others do bother you. Spend time fixing up your surroundings to suit your lifestyle. Pay more attention to your needs and how to achieve the happiness you desire. Make home, family and romance your focus. *****

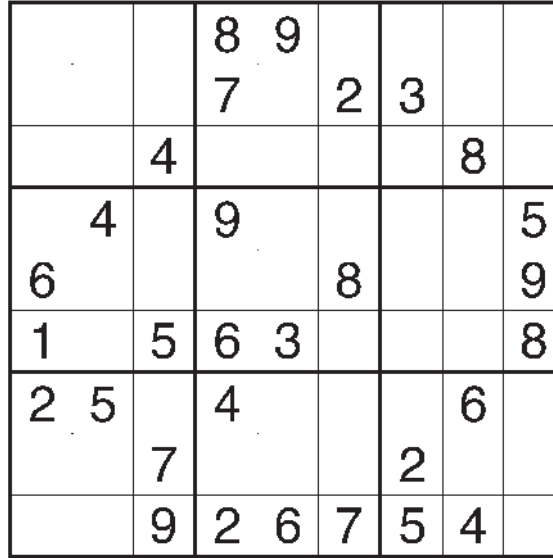
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts and beliefs to yourself. The help you offer others will put you in a good position when you want something in return. A contribution you make will end up leading to an unexpected opportunity. **

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, charismatic and enthusiastic. You are playful and innovative.

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SUDOKU

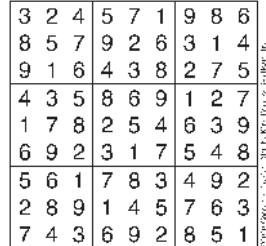
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLOCKCHAIN Solution: 8 letters

V A L U E T U B I R T S I D T
E G N A H C X E H B A N K P S
R E E T A C I F I T R E C E U
I L R C O S A T O S H I A E R
F I S A N K C O M P U T E R T
Y F H R H O E H Y B R I D T E
G E Y T I S I N N E T W O R K
O B N N S T C T V A T A D T R
L U E O A S S R C A U D I T A
O S P C M P E E E A A P G O M
N I O S H S M C V G S D I T E
H N Y R T N U O C N D N T P D
C E L K R E M R C A I E A Y A
E S I G N A D D R E S S L R R
T S P E N D Y C N E R R U C T

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Yesterday's Answer: Cytokinesis
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Opening date: December 20, 2019 Closing date: January 10, 2020

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(2) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)

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Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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Hot-shooting Spurs pounce on Bucks

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Known as a mid-range shooting team for the past few seasons, the Spurs are starting to comprehend why San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich has implored them to shoot more 3-pointers.

DeMar DeRozan had 25 points and the San Antonio Spurs had a season-high 19 3-pointers to beat Milwaukee 126-104 on Monday night, snapping the Bucks five-game winning streak.

“It’s big, confidence building,” DeRozan said. “Letting us know we could compete with the best teams in this league.”

San Antonio finished 19 for 35 on 3-pointers in handing Milwaukee its largest defeat of the season.

Patty Mills added 21 points, including 6 for 10 on 3-pointers. LaMarcus Aldridge and Rudy Gay added 18 points each, going a combined 4 for 5 on 3-pointers.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for Milwaukee and Donte DiVincenzo added 16 points.

Four games after setting a season-high with 18 3-pointers against Detroit, the Spurs bested that mark when Gay hit the team’s 19th against Milwaukee.

Aldridge has keyed that run, going 16 for 23 on 3-pointers in his last five games.

“With LaMarcus joining us on the 3-point line and having the ability to knock them down, it does wonders in terms of spacing,” Mills said.

Aldridge has shot so well on 3s that the Bucks almost overlooked DeRozan’s mid-range game.

“We have a ton of respect for (DeRozan),” Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. “I think the way Aldridge has been shooting the 3-point shot over the last five, six, seven games, a lot of talk was about, ‘Could we reduce those.’ He had a huge first quarter, first half on Saturday. I don’t want to say live with DeRozan’s 2s, but to some degree (we did), but I still think it’s the 3-point line where they beat us.”

The Bucks, whose last loss was Dec. 25 at Philadelphia, maintain the league’s best record at 32-6.

Popovich somewhat agreed when asked if this was the Spurs’ most complete game of the season.

“It’d be hard to argue against that, I think,” he said. “The physicality was good. We started out the third quarter a little poorly as we have, going to try to figure that out, but



I thought we were more consistent tonight in our physicality and executing game plan, we were more consistent. It was a good night.”

76ers 120, Thunder 113

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 18 points while playing with a dislocated left ring finger, Ben Simmons had 17 points and 15 rebounds, and the 76ers ended a four-game losing streak by beating Oklahoma City.

The 76ers lost all four games on a trip that knocked them down the Eastern Conference standings and raised questions about how far this team can go in the playoffs.

They usually last in the postseason as long as a healthy Embiid can take them. The All-Star center dislocated his left ring finger in the first quarter, an injury so gnarly that the bent finger stretched across his pinkie and the sight did a number on gag reflexes for those watching at home. Embiid made a brief stop in the locker room, got the finger taped and returned to start the second period.

Jazz 128, Pelicans 126

In New Orleans, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 35 points, Joe Ingles added 22 and Utah extended its winning streak to six games by holding off the Pelicans.

Brandon Ingram had 35 points for the Pelicans but could not convert a driving layup attempt at the horn

while being defended by Rudy Gobert. The Utah center was chasing Ingram down the right side of the lane and appeared to make body-to-body contact that forced Ingram over the baseline as he attempted to take the final shot.

As the horn sounded, Pelicans players leaped off the bench pleading for a foul call while Utah players celebrated Gobert’s defensive play and quickly disappeared down the tunnel. Officials briefly went to the scorer’s table to check if there should be any time left and then ruled the game over, eliciting a cascade of boos from the crowd.

Wizards 99, Celtics 94

In Washington, missing star guard Kemba Walker, the Boston Celtics became the latest NBA contender to surprisingly come up short against one of the league’s worst teams, losing to the Wizards as Ish Smith scored 27 points to lead a depleted lineup.

Walker sat out his third game in a row with the flu, and while the Celtics won the previous two, they couldn’t overcome poor shooting, a slow start and a whole lot of Smith.

One game after pouring in a career-high 32 points as a reserve, Smith again came off the bench to pace the Wizards. The 31-year-old guard even heard “M-V-P!” chants in the fourth quarter, when he scored 14 points, including 10 straight for the Wizards during one 5-for-5 shooting stretch.

Mavericks 118, Bulls 110

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 21 of his 38 points in the third quarter and had his NBA-leading 11th triple-double of the season to lead the Mavericks past Chicago.

Doncic scored 17 of the Mavericks’ 19 points in the final 5:35 of the third to break open what had been a tie game. His 3-pointer gave Dallas a 72-69 lead it did not relinquish.

The 20-year-old added 11 rebounds and 10 assists for the Mavs, who played without Kristaps Porzingis for the fourth straight game because of right knee soreness.

Nuggets 123, Hawks 115

In Atlanta, Nikola Jokic scored a career-high 47 points, Will Barton added a season-best 28 and Denver held on to beat Atlanta.

The Nuggets, coming off a surprising loss at Washington two nights earlier, have won four of six to improve to 25-11, second-best in the Western Conference. Atlanta, worst in the NBA at 8-29, has dropped 11 of 13.

Trae Young finished with 29 points and Kevin Huerter had 22 for the Hawks.

Jokic surpassed his previous career high of 41 points with a putback that gave Denver a 114-109 lead with 3:14 remaining.

Magic 101, Nets 89

In Orlando, Markelle Fultz

scored a career-high 25 points, including seven straight during a 15-1 run in the fourth quarter that sent the Magic past slumping Brooklyn.

Nikola Vucevic had 24 rebounds and 11 points for his 300th career double-double, and the Magic pulled away in the final seven minutes after going 9:20 without a field goal.

Joe Harris and Spencer Dinwiddie scored 16 apiece for the Nets, who lost their sixth straight game after charging back from a 16-point deficit to take a lead in the fourth quarter.

Seven players scored in double figures for the Magic. D.J. Augustin came off the bench to contribute 16 points and five assists.

Fultz, the top pick in the 2017 NBA draft, shot 11 for 20 with four assists and two steals.

Pacers 115, Hornets 104

In Charlotte, T.J. Warren scored 30 of his season-high 36 points in the second half and Indiana topped the Hornets to halt a two-game skid.

Domantas Sabonis added 18 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and Miles Turner had 15 points and nine rebounds for the Pacers, who had lost four of five. The Pacers, who are 15-4 at home, improved to 8-10 on the road.

Indiana outscored Charlotte 37-21 in the third quarter behind 13 points from Warren to open a 14-point lead. Warren finished 15 of 24 from the field.

Terry Rozier had 28 points for the Hornets, whose two-

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) pressures San Antonio Spurs forward Rudy Gay (22) during the second half of an NBA game in San Antonio, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

game win streak ended. Devonte Graham added 22 points and six assists.

Kings 111, Warriors 98

In Sacramento, De’Aaron Fox had 21 points and seven assists, Buddy Hield also scored 21 and the Kings thumped Golden State.

Trevor Ariza added a season-high 18 points for the Kings, and Harrison Barnes scored 18 as well. Sacramento led by 31 on the way to winning for only the second time in 11 games, allowing coach Luke Walton to rest most of his starters in the fourth quarter.

It was the Kings’ second lopsided win over the Warriors this season, having beaten Golden State 100-79 on the road Dec. 15.

Glenn Robinson III had 16 points for Golden State. The Warriors, who played without Draymond Green and D’Angelo Russell, have lost five straight after a season-high four-game winning streak.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr was ejected late in the second quarter after getting hit with consecutive technical fouls by referee Jason Goldenberg.

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Teams	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	25	9	.735	0.0
Toronto	24	12	.667	2.0
Philadelphia	24	14	.632	3.0
Brooklyn	16	19	.457	9.5
New York	10	26	.278	16.0
Central Division				
Milwaukee	32	6	.842	0.0
Indiana	23	14	.622	8.5
Chicago	13	24	.351	18.5
Detroit	13	24	.351	18.5
Cleveland	10	26	.278	21.0
Southeast Division				
Miami	26	10	.722	0.0
Orlando	17	20	.459	9.5
Charlotte	15	24	.385	12.5
Washington	12	24	.333	14.0
Atlanta	8	29	.216	18.5
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	29	7	.806	0.0
LA Clippers	26	12	.684	4.0
Phoenix	14	22	.389	15.0
Sacramento	14	23	.378	15.5
Golden State	9	29	.237	21.0
Southwest Division				
Houston	24	11	.686	0.0
Dallas	23	13	.639	1.5
San Antonio	15	20	.429	9.0
Memphis	15	22	.405	10.0
New Orleans	12	25	.324	13.0
Northwest Division				
Denver	25	11	.694	0.0
Utah	24	12	.667	1.0
Oklahoma	20	16	.556	5.0
Portland	15	22	.405	10.5
Minnesota	14	21	.400	10.5
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Super Bowl winner McCarthy to coach Cowboys



FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Mike McCarthy won a Super Bowl and went to the playoffs eight straight years while coaching two-time MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

The Dallas Cowboys are hoping for similar results from McCarthy with Dak Prescott.

McCarthy, who won the title as Green Bay's coach at the home of the Cowboys nine years ago, has agreed to become the ninth coach in Dallas team history, a person with direct knowledge of the deal said Monday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team hasn't announced the decision.

McCarthy interviewed over the weekend, before the Cowboys made the announcement Sunday that Jason Garrett wouldn't return after 9+ seasons.

Dallas missed the playoffs at 8-8 with high expectations in a make-or-break season for Garrett, whose contract expires next week.

Green Bay made nine trips to the postseason in 13 years under McCarthy. That's the only other head coaching job the 56-year-old has held. He was fired during what ended up being a second straight losing season for the Packers in 2018.

McCarthy led the Packers to at least 10 wins in eight of his first 11 seasons, including four trips to the NFC championship game.

Dallas hasn't been that far in the playoffs since the last of the franchise's five Super Bowl titles to finish the 1995 season. The Cowboys missed the playoffs six times in Garrett's nine full seasons.

McCarthy also interviewed with Cleveland, Carolina and the New York Giants. He went 125-77-2 in the regular season with the Packers and 10-8 in the playoffs. The Cowboys have just three playoff wins since their last championship.

The eight-year playoff run for McCarthy and Rodgers was from 2009-16, a stretch that included two divisional-round victories over the Garrett-led Cowboys.

The Cowboys believe they have their next franchise QB in Prescott, who was the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year after replacing the injured Tony Romo and never relinquishing the starting job.

Prescott, whose rookie contract is expiring, and two-time rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott have made the playoffs twice in four seasons and got their first playoff victory in 2018 after losing their post-



season debut to Rodgers and McCarthy with Dallas as the NFC's top seed in 2016.

McCarthy was fired after an embarrassing loss at Lambeau Field to Arizona, a defeat that

all but sealed a second straight year without a postseason trip for the Packers.

With a mandate to get the Cowboys past the divisional round for the first time in near-

ly 25 years, Garrett couldn't build on a 3-0 start. Dallas went 4-8 in the next 12 games with a pair of three-game losing streaks.

The Cowboys still had a chance to make the playoffs with a win at Philadelphia in Week 16, but the 17-9 loss handed their postseason fate to the Eagles for the final week. Philadelphia beat the New York Giants 34-17, eliminating Dallas despite its 47-16 win over Washington.

Dallas finished 8-8 four times under Garrett, who had an 87-70 record, including 2/3 in the playoffs, in nine-plus seasons.

Despite never winning more than one playoff game in a season, the 53-year-old Garrett has the club's second-longest tenure behind Pro Football Hall of Famer Tom Landry, coach for the franchise's first 29 seasons.

Giants interview Judge, Rhule on deck

In East Rutherford, the New York Giants have interviewed New England Patriots assistant coach Joe Judge for their vacant head coaching job.

The 38-year-old Judge has been a part of five championship teams, winning three Super Bowls with the Patriots and two college football titles with Alabama.

Judge is the fifth candidate the Giants have interviewed since firing Pat Shurmur last week.

The Patriots' special teams coordinator and wide receivers coach met with co-owner John Mara, general manager Dave Gettleman, vice president of football operations Kevin Abrams at the team's headquarters in New Jersey on Monday.

The Giants are also expected to interview Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Baylor coach Matt Rhule this week.

Judge has coached for 15 years, including the past eight with New England. He was part of the staffs that helped the team to Super Bowls titles in the 2014, '16 and '18 seasons. He had won titles with the Crimson Tide in 2009 and '11. He has also coached at Mississippi State and Birmingham-Southern.

The Giants also lost one of their candidates Monday as McCarthy, who interviewed with the Giants on Friday, agreed to become coach of the Cowboys.

Top-seed Ravens focus on now, not then, in playoff vs Titans

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—There's really nothing about the past that interests the Baltimore Ravens in relation to their playoff game against the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night.

The 21-0 win over the Titans in the 2018 season is irrelevant, given how much has changed since then. Baltimore's NFL-best 14-2 record this season got them home-field advantage and a first-round bye, but as guard Marshal Yanda noted, "The records are gone right now. The guys who got into the playoffs, you respect them. They're there for a reason."

The Titans (10-7) are in this position because they upset the New England Patriots 20-13 on the road last Saturday. That's what the Ravens care about, far more than that Week 6 game in 2018 at Tennessee, when Baltimore sacked Marcus Mariota 11 times and held running back Derrick Henry to 21 yards on seven carries.

Ryan Tannehill is now running the Tennessee offense, and Henry has blossomed into a star. In addition to leading the NFL with 1,540 yards rushing, he rambled for 211 yards against Houston

on Dec. 29 before running through the Patriots for 182 yards and a touchdown.

That's why the Ravens probably won't be watching much film from that game last year. Baltimore got three sacks from Za'Darius Smith, who's now playing for Green Bay, and each of the Ravens' three touchdowns were produced by players no longer with the team.

Joe Flacco was Baltimore's quarterback back then. Now it's Lamar Jackson, who's never faced the Titans but certainly knows what it's like to open the playoffs at home.

It's an experience he would rather forget. Facing the Los Angeles Chargers last January in the wild-card round, Jackson struggled in a 23-17 defeat that made Baltimore's first playoff appearance in four years a one-and-done affair.

Jackson was 6-1 as a starter, but against Los Angeles he completed only 14 passes in 29 attempts with an interception. Two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter after the Chargers had built a 23-3 lead did nothing to make him feel better about the final game of his rookie season.

That was then. Better to move forward than think

about the past.

"That game is over with," Jackson said. "I really hated it. I don't want to talk about it anymore. I can't wait to play this week."

Jackson is a far more complete player than he was then. After an offseason in which he dedicated himself to becoming a better passer, Jackson had two games with a perfect quarterback rating and threw 36 touchdown passes with just six interceptions. He also set an NFL record for yards rushing by a quarterback (1,206 yards).

"He wants to win very badly," Ravens quarterback coach James Urban said. "So, when you have a great attitude and you come to work and you're really talented and you work hard at it, you see the results."

Wild-card games draw biggest audience since 2016

The NFL wild-card playoff games were the most watched opening weekend in four years.

The four games averaged 30.5 million viewers, which was a 7% increase over last season, boosted by one-score finishes, including a pair that went into overtime.

Seattle's 17-9 victory over

Philadelphia on NBC drew the most viewers as it averaged 35.8 million, according to Nielsen and Abode Analytics. That also makes it television's most-watched show since last year's Super Bowl.

The late Sunday afternoon matchup was also the most watched wild-card game featuring a West Coast team since San Francisco vs. Green Bay in 2014.

Saturday night's Tennessee-New England game on CBS averaged 31.42 million viewers. Viewership of the Titans' 20-13 victory was up 1% from the last time the network had a primetime AFC first-round game, when Pittsburgh-Cincinnati in 2016 drew 31.23 million.

Minnesota's 26-20 victory in overtime at New Orleans on Fox averaged 30.79 million viewers, making it the network's most watched game since last year's NFC championship game between the Saints and Los Angeles Rams.

Houston's 22-19 OT victory over Buffalo on ESPN and ABC Saturday averaged 26.41 million, making it the most-viewed NFL wild-card game since they started airing the opening postseason game in 2015.

MLB eyeing high-tech solutions to sign stealing



NEW YORK —

Amid growing paranoia about sign stealing, Major League Baseball is discussing on-field technology for communicating pitch calls and plans to start soliciting feedback from players this spring training, league sources said.

The commissioner's office is in the process of developing a handful of prototype devices to encode pitcher-catcher communication, including a wearable random-number generator and lights in the mound, sources said.

One consideration for any pitch-calling technology is the ability to accommodate coaches dictating pitches from the dugout, which a league source foresees being the norm in the not-too-distant future.

Concern within the game that traditional methods of relaying signs are vulnerable to nefarious theft predates the bombshell reporting this off-season on the Houston Astros' alleged trashcan scheme of 2017. Signs have become increasingly complicated over the years, sometimes even without a runner on second base. Against the Astros in the World Series last season, the Washington Nationals relied on a rotating sequence of multiple signs that changed frequently.

Indeed, conversations within the commissioner's office on developing some sort of technology to prevent sign stealing have been taking place for about a year, sources told Yahoo Sports. When the league implemented more stringent rules around ballpark video feeds in February 2019, there was an internal acknowledgement that the long-term fix for sign stealing would likely require revamping the



AP
In this Oct. 29, 2019, Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander, left, talks with catcher Robinson Chirinos during the first inning of Game 6 of the World Series against the Washington Nationals in Houston.

traditional methods of calling the game.

MLB is investigating the Astros now and will likely dole out punishments intended to deter future sign stealers. But the problem likely extends beyond any one team—or at the very least, the suspicion is more widespread.

"This paranoia, industry-wide, that came about as a result of technology and using technology to steal signs, I think that accelerated those talks about some sort of development of a communica-

tion device between pitcher and catcher," a league source said, emphasizing that this has been a concern for decades, but that the expanding influence of analytics and R&D groups has made advance scouting and sign stealing more sophisticated.

The colloquial understanding is that the easiest and most obvious solution would be earpieces that allow pitchers and catchers to communicate directly. However, in initial testing last year, minor league pitchers throwing bullpens with earpiece prototypes found

them distracting and uncomfortable, a league source said.

One of the devices in development, described by league sources, is a wearable random-number generator (similar to a push password used for secure log-ins) that corresponds to which sign in a sequence is relevant. This would preserve the existing dynamic of a catcher putting down a sign for interpretation by the pitcher, but overlay it with a level of secure encryption that would be virtually impossible to decode even with a dedicated

software program.

Alternatively, the finger system could be replaced by in-ground lights on the mound. Sources with knowledge of the idea said catchers would have access to a control pad that corresponds to a lighting panel visible only to the pitcher. A certain button for a certain light sequence for a certain pitch.

With all of these options and other more theoretical solutions, there's concern around connectivity, operating the various systems smoothly, and how any kind of paradigm shift would impact pace of play. The league's hope is that eliminating the need for complicated sign sequences would shave a couple of seconds off each pitch and ultimately speed up the game.

Crucially, any new technological implementation is expected to preemptively address the pace-of-play problem that could be introduced if teams move toward coaches calling the game from the dugout, which a league source anticipated would eventually become commonplace.

In college baseball, games are typically called from the dugout with a coach relaying a sign to the catcher who interprets it, often based on an armband, a system that is secure but time-consuming and clunky. The concern is that as pitch sequencing gets increasingly analytical, major league

teams will want to have a dedicated "defensive coordinator" calling games from the dugout. And although it's not a requirement at this stage of prototype development, league sources said that if they did institute a technological overhaul of pitch communication, it would need to be able to accommodate this potential forthcoming change in roles.

If both of these come to pass—a cultural shift toward coach-called games plus the technological communication devices—in conjunction with the rise of automated strike zones through the minors and eventually into the majors, it would fundamentally erode the defensive demands of the catcher position.

Implementation is not imminent. The league discussed these hypothetical devices with team front-office personnel at industry meetings this offseason, but they're still trying to understand which of many potential solutions best suit the requirements. To that end, MLB hopes to have a handful of prototypes ready in time to solicit feedback from big league players this spring.

"There's real testing that needs to take place with these things, first and foremost, in terms of safety and then also the integrity of the devices and then the impact that they're gonna have," a league source said. "Is it going to speed the game up? Is it going to slow it down? How is it going to change the game?"

But, the source concluded, "I think we will have a technological solution at some point."

Tigers reach \$2.8M deal with Fulmer

In Detroit, the Tigers avoided arbitration with Michael Fulmer, agreeing Monday to a \$2.8 million, one-year deal with the right-hander after he missed last season while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

It's the same amount Fulmer received last year when he lost his arbitration case with the Tigers.

Fulmer was voted AL Rookie of the Year in 2016 and won 10 games in 2017, but he struggled in 2018, and that season ended early for him because of a right knee injury. He said last March he was going to have the elbow ligament reconstruction.

DC United targeting Ballon d'Or winner Modric

According to reports, DC United has spoken with Luka Modric's representatives about the possibility of the Real Madrid midfielder joining the club this summer.

Modric has had an up-and-down season with Real Madrid, missing time with a muscle injury in September and struggling on occasion as Madrid battles Barcelona at the top of the La Liga table. Still, his pedigree in the soccer universe is unquestioned, having won four Champions League titles and carrying Croatia to the 2018 World Cup final, the latter of which led him to winning the Ballon d'Or that year.

With that in mind, it's no surprise that Modric would command a salary in the \$5-6

million per year range, firmly in Designated Player territory.

DC United is looking to recapture the stardom it lost with the departures of Wayne Rooney and Luciano Acosta, both of whom left after this past season. A 34-year-old Modric is the perfect target, with his Real Madrid contract expiring at the end of the European season.

DC United first made contact with Modric's representatives following the conclusion of the 2019 season, and the player is apparently "very interested."

Meanwhile, DC United and Liga MX side Monarcas Morelia have come to an agreement on the transfer of Peruvian winger Edison

Flore.

The MLS side will pay over \$5 million for the 25-year-old's services, almost three times the amount that Morelia paid Danish side Aalborg in 2018 for Flores. The winger's contract with Los Purépechas ran until the summer of 2022.

Flores was a first-team favorite at Morelia—who finished seventh in the 2019 Clausura and went on to make a unexpected run into the semi-finals before losing to Club America—making 21 appearances for Monarcas last season, and scoring seven goals and recording four assists.

The crafty, left-footed winger is also a staple with the Peruvian national team,

accumulating over 43 caps for Ricardo Gareca's side. Flores featured heavily for Los Incas in the 2018 World Cup and during the 2019 Copa America, which saw Peru make it to the final.

During the offseason, D.C. United has lost key pieces such as Rooney to Derby County, Acosta to Atlas and Lucas Rodriguez to Estudiantes.

Flores appears to be the first of three important signings for the nation's capital side, who lost to Toronto FC 5-1 in MLS Cup playoffs. The franchise has also been linked to Santos Laguna's Brian Lozano, Venezuelan striker Gelmin Rivas and Ecuadoran midfielder Christian Aleman.



Serena tops qualifier, off to solid start in 2020

AUCKLAND (AP)—Serena Williams found her power game after a sluggish start as she overcame qualifier Camila Giorgi to open her 2020 season with a straight-sets victory at the Auckland WTA Classic on Tuesday.

With an eye on the Australian Open later in the month, the 38-year-old worked her way into a blistering performance that proved too much for the 1.7 metre (5ft 6in) Italian.

She described her first match since losing the US Open final in September as “solid” rather than spectacular.

“Spent a long time off from tournament play, match play, so solid is pretty good. It’s a great start to build on,” she said after sealing her 6-3, 6-2 victory with her eighth ace against the 99th-ranked Giorgi.

“It’s really good that I still have some power left in my arms and my legs.”

Williams, originally drawn to play two-time Grand Slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova before the Russian pulled out due to a virus, said her preparation had been helped by playing doubles with Caroline Wozniacki the previous evening which allowed her to adapt to the blustery Auckland weather.

“I knew it was going to be really tough but I think the doubles really helped. I got to come out here and play a little bit in these conditions and get used to them.”

After more than three months off court, Williams took time to settle and was



forced to save an early break point with the first six games all going with serve.

But at 3-3 in the first set, Williams found her range and from there on the result was never in doubt.

Auckland is an important tournament for the veteran as she prepares for the Australian Open later in the month with her eyes firmly on a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title.

While Williams is the undisputed face of American tennis, she has been joined in Auckland by the new wave of US tennis stars, headed

by the tournament third seed Amanda Anisimova who did not disappoint.

The 18-year-old, who captured world attention reaching the semi-finals of the French Open last year where she lost in three sets to eventual champion Ashleigh Barty, needed 78 minutes to dispose of Kateryna Kozlova of the Ukraine 6-3, 6-4.

Unlike Williams, Anisimova said she felt quite at home in the Auckland wind.

“I’ve been training in Miami and it’s really the same,” she said.

The Top 5 seeds were all in action on Tuesday and along with Williams and Anisimova, Petra Martic, defending champion Julia Goerges and Caroline Wozniacki also progressed to the second round.

Second seed Martic from Croatia had trouble at the start against 21-year-old American Usue Arconada and dropped the first set before prevailing 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Wozniacki cruised against New Zealander Paige Hourigan with a 6-1, 6-0 victory in 53 minutes while Germany’s Goerges came from 2-5 down in the second set to beat Greet Minnen of

Belgium 6-1, 7-6 (7/4).

Osaka wins opener

In Australia, Naomi Osaka got an extended workout in her opening match at the Brisbane International, just two weeks away from the defense of her Australia Open title.

CTSI

From Page 28

Meanwhile, in the other game in the division, the Lady Ol’Aces outclassed the Baby Ol’Aces, 45-35.

The Lady Ol’Aces wrapped up the prelims with a 4-2 mark, just slightly ahead of the Baby Ol’Aces (3-3). The sister teams will collide this Saturday at 6pm for the second finals berth.

Tazsha Deleon Guerrero paced the Lady Ol’Aces with her 13 points, while Jamie Pangelinan, Lia Rangamar, and Cassandra Camacho combined for nearly half of the squad’s output after scoring 8, 7, and 6 respectively.

Destiny Pangelinan tallied 11 markers to lead the Baby

United States’ Serena Williams makes a return during her match against Italy’s Camila Giorgi at the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020.

Osaka defeated Greece’s Maria Sakkari 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-3 on Tuesday to set up a second-round match with American Sofia Kenin.

The two-time Grand Slam champion and former world No. 1 took more than two hours and had 16 aces to beat Sakkari.

In other matches Tuesday, eighth-seeded Madison Keys beat Czech qualifier Maria Bouzkova 6-2, 6-3. Keys will now face local favorite Samantha Stosur in the second round.

“Sam’s always tough,” Keys said. “I think she’s beaten me every time we have played. It’s also hard to play someone who is going to be playing at home and have the crowd and all that.”

Russian qualifier Liudmila Samsonova had the upset of the tournament so far by defeating American Sloane Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open champion, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Ol’Aces’ losing cause.

First Game

CTSI 56—Travilla 14, Johnson 8, Alferos 6, Watanabe 4, Pagarao 4, Alegre 4, Kautz 4, P. Echavez 2, Wally 2.

Lady Rollers 38—Jeraldine Castillo 25, Jerlyn Castillo 4, Buenabaja 4, Hemley 2, Lumabi 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-14, 56-38.

Second Game

Lady Ol’Aces 45—Deleon Guerrero 13, Pangelinan 8, Rangamar 7, C. Camacho 6, Aldan 5, Simran 3, Mendoza 2.

Baby Ol’Aces 35—Pangelinan 11, Joyce 9, Roligat 7, Acosta 4, Rangamar 4.

Scoring by halves: 20-17, 45-35.

CNMI

From Page 28

and Lorenzo Sebaklim were the other players who made it home for the CNMI at the bottom of the sixth inning.

Lorenzo earlier scored two runs and blasted a three-run double at the top of the fourth inning, turning a 2-0 lead to a 4-0 advantage. Fred Songao handed the CNMI its first run at the top of the second inning, while Lorenzo gave the team its second when he scored off Jeffery Lizama’s single and delivered their fourth run in the fourth innings off Josenio Alvarez’s single.

Alvarez, Songao, and Sakisat each went 2-for-3 at bat and combined for five runs, while Masaharu and Nakamura were 3-for-5 and 2-for-5, respectively, and had one RBIs each.

L.J. Sebaklim pitched in no relief for the CNMI, struck out three, and gave up only two hits. With L.J. playing steady on the mound and the rest of the team’s

defense sharp, the Commonwealth crew allowed Pohnpei to score only in the third inning. The CNMI’s solid defense forced Pohnpei to a 1-2-3 inning in the first to third, fifth, and sixth.

Meanwhile, the CNMI will close out its pool assignment today when it challenges host Guam in the 3pm match. The defending champion also holds a 2-0 record following a 15-1 rout over Kosrae.

Guam, which is reinforced by pro players Peter Perez and Sean Cruz, finished off Kosrae after only five innings, setting up the lopsided win after scoring nine runs in the first inning and six in the second. Kosrae’s lone run in the match was recorded in the fourth inning.

After today’s last pool play, Guam and CNMI will meet anew tomorrow at 10am for the first finals berth. The loser will play on the same day at 2pm against the winner in the Kosrae-Pohnpei duel for the second finals ticket.



GUAM MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PHOTO

L.J. Sebaklim pitches to a Pohnpei batter during the second inning of their game in the 3rd Micronesian Baseball Classic yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Team routs Pohnpei

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI picked up where it left off, winning its second game in the 3rd Micronesia Baseball Classic in convincing fashion after hammering Pohnpei, 14-3 yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.

After shutting down Kosrae, the CNMI was still on target and got another easy victory 7-0, in its opener last Monday,



after only six innings. The Commonwealth bets set up the win an inning early via 10-run mercy rule after collecting nine runs at the top of the sixth inning. All but one of the CNMI's top of the order reached in the deciding inning, which was highlighted by Darion Jones' two-RBI single. Franco Nakamura, Dennis Cabrera, Poland Masaharu, A.J. Lizama, Nate Camacho, M.J. Sakisat,

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lorenzo Sebaklim, seen here pitching in a local league last year, hit a three-RBI double and scored three runs in the CNMI's 14-3 victory over Pohnpei in the 3rd Micronesia Baseball Classic yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eats Easy's Fradel Sedillo, right, uses his body to deflect the ball, while Matansa's Sang Dong Park moves in for defense during their earlier game in the 8x8 NMIFA Winter Masters League 2019 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Eats Easy vs Paire in Masters finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eats Easy and Paire Football Club arranged their championship showdown in the 8x8 NMIFA Winter Masters League 2019 after recording easy victories in their respective semis matches last Sunday at the NMI Soccer



Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire notched the first finals berth after winning via forfeiture over Los Viejos, while Eats Easy hammered Matansa, 21-2, in the other Final Four duel. Eats Easy and Paire will dispute the season crown this Sun-

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CTSI closed the preliminary round in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament with a four-game winning streak after clobbering the Lady Rollers 56-38, last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

CTSI finished the double-round robin prelims in the women's division with a 5-1 record to gain the top seeding in the playoffs where it will face the last placer Lady Rollers anew. CTSI, which absorbed its lone loss in the competition against the Lady

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CTSI's Nanaka Watanabe, left, dribbles to their front-court, while the Lady Ol'Aces' Tazha Deleon Guerrero, right, and Desrei Camacho chase her during their second meeting in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

CTSI gets top seed



Ol'Aces early last month, is highly favored to beat the winless Lady Rollers (0-6) in their battle for the first finals ticket this Saturday at 4pm.

University of Guam standout Jan Travilla played her third game for CTSI and led the No. 1 squad in scoring after firing 14 points. Melody Johnson, who is also a late addition to the CTSI lineup, as she is just on island for a holiday visit, added 8 markers for the squad's balance offense. Mary Kay Alferos chipped in 6 points, while four other CTSI players contributed 4 markers apiece to hand the Lady Rollers a winless record.

The Lady Rollers failed to get a victory in their last game in the preliminary, as only Jeraldine Castillo stood up for the team after delivering 25 points. Her teammates were held to no more than two field goals.

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